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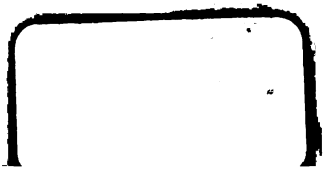

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TRAVERS' GOLF BOOK

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TRAVERS' GOLF BOOK

BY

JEROME D. TRAVERS

Amateur Champion of the United States, 1907, 1908 and 1912

WITH FORTY-EIGHT ILLUSTRATIONS

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1913

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PREFACE

SINCE the day I first won the championship of the United States, in 1907, I have been asked by scores of golfers to write a book relating my experiences and explaining my method of playing the different shots. This I have endeavored to do to the best of my ability in the following pages. I have made it a point to impart the information at my command in the simplest possible manner so that both the novice and the more experienced player may readily understand. I have used carefully posed photographs explaining grip, stance, top of swing and follow through instead of abstruse charts and diagrams that are more apt to puzzle than enlighten the

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golfer. I have laid particular stress upon the points that I consider to be of greatest importance, and have striven to make each golf picture with its accompanying text a golf lesson in itself. If the experienced player find matter that seems trite and familiar to him, he must remember that this book is written for the novice as well as for the man who is more or less expert. My hope, too, is that even the expert, when he is "off his game," may be helped to correct his faults and get back into form again through the instrumentality of these pages. If this book be of genuine assistance to those endeavoring to learn the game, and if it be even a small factor in arousing increased interest in the most beneficial and enjoyable of sports, I shall be content. In conclusion, I attribute my own success as an amateur golfer to the

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fact that I took up the game at an early age and devoted a great deal of time to it, and to the additional fact that I was instructed by Alex. Smith, the well-known professional.

Also, I wish to thank Mr. Earle Hooker Eaton for the assistance he has given me in the preparation of this book.

JEROME D. TRAVERS.

April 4, 1913.

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GOLF BOOK

CHAPTER I

MY FIRST HOME COURSE

I STARTED playing golf on my father's country estate at Oyster Bay, Long Island, when I was nine years old. My brother had a set of golf clubs and made me a present of a mid-iron and some balls. I had watched my brother and my cousins play and the game made a strong appeal to my boyish fancy the very first time I saw them swing their clubs. I was too young to even think of practicing on a real golf links, and I naturally commenced knocking the balls about on the back lawn of my father's place.

On the Back Lawn

A windmill stood about one hundred

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yards from the house, and when I began playing on my first "home course," I was unable to drive a ball from the windmill to the house. Day after day I swung my mid-iron with all my might in efforts to cover the full distance, but I was only nine and the old gutta percha ball was by no means as lively as the present day rubber-cored ball, and failure crowned every attempt.

My Drive Improves

I spent the following winter at school in New York, and I must have gained a great deal in strength because when spring came I teed up my first ball at the windmill and, much to my own surprise as well as that of the family, covered the hundred yards so successfully that I put the ball through one of the dining-room windows. I was naturally much elated over this evidence of progress, but when my father returned home

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that night he did not seem as enthusiastic about the feat as I was. I was punished and told to play on the front lawn where there was more space and where there would be less likelihood of smashed window-panes.

On the front lawn I laid out a golf course of my own. John D. Rockefeller has since done the same thing, and I hope he has had as much fun on his private course as I had on mine. The first hole of my three-hole course was about 150 yards. I would tee up near a flagpole in front of the house and play to an oak tree which it was necessary for me to hit in order to "hole out." The tree was guarded by a bank about two feet high and a road, both of which made a very fine hazard. Getting out of trouble with a mid-iron was a sore trial, and many a time I longed to possess a niblick.

The Oak Tree Hole

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Golf Without a Hole

The second hole was from the oak tree to another tree which stood in the right-hand corner of the lawn, about 180 yards away. The trunk of this second tree was very narrow and hitting it with the ball was by no means an easy matter. In fact, it was the longest and most difficult hole on the course. I fear that I played a rather loose game in those days, because when I was guilty of a bad drive I would make a new start and not count the first shot.

The third hole was from the narrow tree back to the flagpole, which, as in the case of the two trees, it was necessary to hit with the ball in order to, theoretically, "hole out." I say theoretically because there was no actual hole into which the ball could drop on the entire course. Even with this grave shortcoming the game fascinated me from the start. I

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would get up early and play before breakfast and many a time some member of the family found it necessary to drive me into the house for luncheon and dinner. Hour after hour I would make the circuit of my little course, and day after day I would work hard to lower my record for the three holes.

Driven In To Meals

If I got a three or a four on the first hole I would walk back and start over again. I remember well the first time I hit the first tree in one shot. Any golfer who has ever made a hole in one stroke of the club can readily imagine exactly how I felt. I became so excited because of the feat that I went all to pieces on the second hole, taking about seven shots. On three different occasions since that day I have had the good fortune to actually hole out in one shot from the tee, but on none of them did my elation equal

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that which I felt when I hit the tree for the first time at 150 yards.

The Mahon Boys

When I was about thirteen years of age I started playing on the Oyster Bay golf course, nine holes in length, and a good test of the game. Here I came in daily contact with three brothers named Mahon. The eldest one of the three gave lessons, the other boys were caddies. The club had no regular professional. All three of the boys were fine golfers. The eldest, Willie Mahon, was a natural-born player, and I have never seen a better exponent of the game. It was a great pity Willie had to give up the sport, because I feel confident he would have made a name for himself as a professional. I was very fortunate to find good players to go round with when I was a youngster, because I got started right, which is a great advantage. These boys

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taught me a great deal about the game, and I also learned much by watching them make the different shots. In those days we played with the old solid ball, and under the tutelage of the brothers my game improved, not rapidly but steadily.

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CHAPTER II

ALEX. SMITH BECOMES MY TUTOR

AFTER the Oyster Bay golf club went out of existence, my father joined the Nassau Country Club at Glen Cove, L. I., and I became a junior member. I was then fifteen years of age and was playing very good golf for a boy, although I had a few serious faults in style. At that time William Hicks was considered to be the best player in the Nassau club, and we arranged a match, Mr. Hicks giving me a handicap. I played better than I knew how, and, greatly to the surprise of Mr. Hicks and myself, I was two or three up after the first nine holes, without the handicap. This unexpected defeat made "Bill" so

A Junior at Nassau

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angry that he broke two clubs over his knee while we were playing the remaining nine holes.

Changing My Swing

During my first two years of play on an actual golf course my swing, especially with the wooden clubs, was wrong and the fault bothered me not a little. I would make a long, slow, backward swing with my arms stiff and my right hand well over the shaft. Naturally, this method lost me a great deal of power, the lack of which gave me poor distance, and I could not get much snap into the shot. I felt that something was wrong, but did not know wherein lay the fault.

Alex. Smith was the professional at Nassau, and my showing against Mr. Hicks and other good players interested him in my game. One day when I was practicing driving, Alex. asked me to try

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his method of putting the right hand *under* rather than *over* the shaft.

"Shorten your back swing," he said, "and take the club back with the wrists. Swing easily, and keep your eye on the ball."

Right Hand Under Shaft

I followed his instructions and drove a long, low, straight ball. Adopting his method, I speedily discovered that I could drive a longer ball with less exertion than with my former swing. Placing the right hand under instead of over the shaft added more power to the stroke, and taking the club back with the wrists, or starting the club head back with them, increased the speed of the club, thus giving me greater distance.

It would be impossible for a man of my physique to copy Alex. Smith's swing with a wooden club, because his forearm is about twice the size of mine, but we

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play the short iron shots with practically the same swing. Three or four times a week I played with Alex. Smith, and I am glad to state that my success in golf is largely due to the instruction I received from him. If it had not been my good fortune to become his pupil at the formative period of my golf career, I doubt if I ever would have won a national title.

The Making of a Champion

From the very first I had no trouble over the change in my swing, and Alex. gave me the highly encouraging assurance that I had the making of a champion in me. On July 13, 1907, the day the prophecy of Alex. came true on the links of the Euclid Club, Cleveland, I took pleasure in stating to a reporter, "I feel that my progress in the sport has been entirely due to early instruction from and matches with Alex. Smith."

However, there was a five years' in-

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terval between the prophecy and its fulfillment, five years of painstaking practice and hard-fought battles on the links.

My First Competition

I was fifteen years of age when I first made my début at match play in a regularly scheduled competition. The event was the invitation tournament of the Westbrook Golf Club. I won in the first two rounds of match play and then found myself opposed by Frank O. Rinehart, of Baltusrol, a very clever and experienced player who outdrove me and finally put me out of the tournament by the narrow margin of 2 up and 1 to play.

My First Championship

Young but ambitious, I lost no time in going after national honors. In September, 1903, the amateur championship of the United States was held upon the links of my home club, and my name was included among the 140 entries. The event was an all match play affair in

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which 128 players participated, and they were divided into two halves, each half containing 64 players. I was in the first half and won the first round 2 up and 1 to play against Dr. S. Carr of Huntingdon Valley, but was beaten 4 to 2 in the second round by P. H. Jennings of St. Andrews. Walter J. Travis, with whom I was later to have so many gruelling matches, was the finalist in my 64 and E. M. Byers of the Allegheny Country Club captured the same honor in the second 64. In the final for the championship Travis defeated Byers by a score of 5 up and 4 to play, thus demonstrating for the third time that he was the premier amateur golfer of the United States.

Travis the Winner

My failure to make a more creditable showing was not particularly disheartening, because I realized that a sixteen-year-old player could hardly expect to

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make any great headway in a field of 128 of the country's best golfers, and the following year I went after my second championship. This time the company was not so fast, the event in question being the interscholastic golf championship. The tournament was held at Nassau, every foot of which I knew well by this time, and I had also had the benefit of about a year of Alex. Smith's instruction. I worked my way into the final and defeated H. G. Hartwell by 4 up and 3 to play.

A Schoolboy Champion

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CHAPTER III

DOUGLAS AND TRAVIS

THE 1904 amateur championship was held at the Baltusrol Golf Club and I was an aspirant for the second time but made a poor showing. D. P. Fredericks of Oil City defeated me 1 up in the first round of match play. Despite these defeats, however, I was slowly but steadily improving, and a few weeks later I had the good fortune to participate in a somewhat sensational tournament, the result of which increased my confidence in myself and caused me to be regarded for the first time as a real factor in national golf circles. The Nassau Country Club held an open tournament in which many prominent players took part and I

A Real Factor in Golf

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succeeded in winning enough victories to place me in the semi-final. In this match, which was 18 holes, I found myself pitted against Findlay S. Douglas, a seasoned veteran who had to his credit many golf laurels including the 1898 amateur championship of the United States. The match was a closely contested one and, much to my surprise as well as that of the other players, resulted in the defeat of Douglas by 2 up and 1 to play. The semi-final was played in the morning and my opponent for the final in the afternoon was Walter J. Travis, who had won the amateur championship of the United States three times, and who was then British amateur champion. The prospect was not encouraging to an ambitious young golfer of seventeen.

Defeat of Douglas

After luncheon, and shortly before the eventful match was to start, I sought my

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guide, philosopher and friend, Alex. Smith, and found him in his shop.

"Don't pay any attention to the 'Old Man,'" he said. "You know how you can play this course—day after day you turn in cards between 75 and 80—so just go ahead and play your game."

First Match with Travis

With these words ringing in my ears I joined Travis at the first tee near which had gathered quite a gallery, including my father and my tutor, Alex. Driving off, we halved the first hole in 4 and Travis won the second by holing for a 4 from the edge of the green. Attempting to halve I overran the hole and got the only 6 made during the match. This rattled me a bit and I topped my drive from the third tee, Travis winning 4 to 5. Turning the tables on the fourth where Travis was in the cop bunker on his second shot, I won in 4 and we halved

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the fifth in 5. I won the sixth by holing in 4 from the extreme right of the green. Travis took a 5 and the match was all square.

By this time the gallery in general, not to mention father and Alex., was breathless in its display of interest. Travis had always been invincible at Nassau and the supposition had been that he would excel me in the long game. In this the gallery was mistaken, for I held my own in the driving and on at least two holes secured the greater distance. After reciting these facts, a newspaper account written at the time says: "Putting really was the decisive factor in the match. It was a most sensational match on the greens."

A 2 for the Hole

The seventh hole added to the interest. My drive landed in the grass to the left of the green and a well played mashie shot gave me a 2 for the hole. Travis

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got a 3 and for the first time I was 1 up. We halved the eighth in 4 and both reached the ninth green in the second shot. In trying for a 3, I overran the hole and Travis won with a 4 to my 5. Two 5's marked the tenth and the veteran won the eleventh 3 to 4. We halved the twelfth, but Travis holed out from the edge of the green for a 3 on the thirteenth, as against my 4, and he was now 2 up. Things looked a bit dark, but I gritted my teeth, reached the fourteenth green in my second shot while my opponent was not quite up, and won the hole 4 to 5. The fifteenth and sixteenth holes were halved amid growing excitement in the ranks of the gallery, 5's and 4's being the figures registered, and again I squared the match with a 3 to Travis's 4 on the seventeenth. We tied the eighteenth hole in 4 and then started to play extra holes,

All Square at 18 Holes

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the winning of one of which meant victory for either Travis or myself.

At the conclusion of the thirteenth when Travis was 2 up, I had been strongly of the opinion that I was practically beaten. Evidently Travis was of the same view, for on the fourteenth his third shot to the green was carelessly played as if he thought the match were so well in hand that he did not need to extend himself. This nettled me, caused me to set my jaw with renewed determination, and no doubt had quite an important bearing on the final result of the contest.

Defeat Seemed Near

Now that we were all square at the finish of 18 holes I went to the first tee with restored confidence, not only because I had held my own very well, but because even if fortune went against me on the extra holes the tie at 18 would be

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glory enough. On the nineteenth we rimmed the cup for 3's and halved in 4's. On the twentieth each rimmed the cup for a 4 and halved with a 5, the two holes being played in par. We both reached the twenty-first green in two shots, Travis twenty feet from the hole and my ball ten feet distant. Travis went dead to the hole on his third and I ran down my ten-foot putt for a 3, one under par, and won the match.

There was a great demonstration on the part of the gallery. All the caddies threw up their hats, cheers and yells rent the air, Alex. Smith's face bore an expression like that of the cat that had swallowed the canary, and father was so happy and rattled that when I asked him for two dollars to pay my caddie he handed me a twenty dollar bill, instead of a two, and never noticed his mistake, the

Father Was Excited

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figures being quite similar. Also, he took the first train home to show my prize to the family, and I kept the change.

Only Sane People

Quite naturally the home player was the favorite and his victory was a popular one. The only sane people around the green were Travis and myself. "There is no aftermath of bitterness in such a defeat," said Travis. "It is a match I shall always recall with pleasure."

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CHAPTER IV

THE BALL IN THE INDIAN'S POCKET

WHEN the 1905 golf season opened I got to work early, full of hope that the ensuing year would see further demonstrations indicating progress on my part. My game showed improvement and, generally speaking, the season was a satisfactory one. The amateur championship was held at the Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, Ill., in August and there were 146 entries and 129 starters. I was one of the 32 who qualified for match play in the 36 holes' medal play round. My score was 170, the best score, 155 being made by Dr. D. P. Fredericks of Oil City, the player who had eliminated me the previous year. In the first round

My Third Championship

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of match play I was paired with E. M. Byers of the Allegheny Country Club and he put me out with ease, the score being 6 up and 5 to play in his favor. D. E. Sawyer of Wheaton and H. C. Egan of Exmoor were the finalists, Egan winning the championship by 6 up and 5 to play.

Travis and Travers

Earlier in the year I competed in the Metropolitan championship at Fox Hills, defeating Travis 7 up and 6 to play but failing to win the event. By this time there was a strong friendly rivalry between Travis and myself, and it has continued to the present time.

Not long after the Fox Hills tournament Travis and I met again at the Westbrook Golf Club and he very cleverly turned the tables by beating me 8 up and 7 to play. An odd incident occurred in the locker room after the game.

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In discussing the match with a bystander, Travis said: "I do not expect that the boy will ever beat me again."

As he spoke I appeared in the bath-room doorway and overheard the remark, but realizing that it was not intended for my ears, I paid no attention to it.

The Lost Ball

In July, Travis and I met in the final of the invitation tournament of the Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, and the match went to the twenty-first green where he holed a ten-foot putt for a three after I had missed a similar putt, and won the game 1 up. We were all even playing the home hole when a remarkable incident occurred. I drove a long ball from the eighteenth tee and as it hooked towards the rough at the left we distinctly saw it strike an Indian caddie, one of the Shinnecock lads, in the back. Travis

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drove a straight ball and then all hands set out to search the stubble for my ball. The gallery came to our aid and two or three hundred people hunted in vain for the ball. Under the rules a ball lost for five minutes means the loss of the hole, and in this particular instance it meant the loss of the match.

"Time's up," announced W. A. Putnam of the greens committee, as he looked at his watch. Travis cast a sharp glance in his direction which meant that he did not wish to claim the hole on a technicality. When questioned, the Indian caddie stoutly declared that the ball had not touched him, although we all knew that this was not true. Finally John M. Ward, one time captain of the New York "Giants" and since then a very talented golfer, saw a bulge in the Indian's hip pocket and when the cause of the bulge

Ward Saw a Bulge

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was removed it proved to be my golf ball. There was no doubt about this because I had been playing with a red dot ball, from both ends of which I had cut the dots, and that identical ball was taken from the Indian's pocket. As Travis very generously had refrained from claiming the hole under the five minute rule, the incident merely passed as a "rub o' the green" and I dropped the ball without penalty and halved the hole in 4, missing a putt of about three and one-half feet for the hole and the match. As I have already stated, however, Travis won the match on the twenty-first green.

The Mystery Solved?

But how did the ball get into the Indian's pocket? That is a mystery unsolved to this day, but I have a theory of my own concerning it. The Indian wore no coat and there were several rents in the back of his shirt. The ball doubt-

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less struck one of these and dropped inside his shirt. Feeling the ball there, and believing that he would get into trouble because he had interfered with a notable match, he drew the ball from his shirt and slipped it into his hip pocket.

Again the Finalists

In September came the annual open tournament at Nassau, and as in the previous year Travis and I were again the finalists. The match ended on the sixteenth green 4 up and 2 to play in my favor. Travis ranked as the greatest amateur golfer in America and I have devoted considerable space to my matches with him because they throw light upon the progress I had made in the game at the age of eighteen.

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CHAPTER V

WINNING THE METROPOLITAN

WHEN the golf season of 1906 opened I was nineteen years of age and a schoolboy, but golf was such an attractive sport that I found time to compete in the principal events of the year. One of these was the championship of the Metropolitan Golf Association at St. Andrews. In this tournament E. M. Byers and I were the finalists and I won the championship for the first time by 3 up and 1 to play. A newspaper in commenting on the match had the following:

Defeat of E. M. Byers

"The feature of the winner's game was the length of his full shots and their perfect direction. W. J. Travis in his palmiest days was not truer on the line.

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Then, again, the youngster has a versatility in playing various iron and approach shots which few veterans could surpass, and what slight weakness there may have been in his game was an occasional lack of strength in his approach putts.

"Mr. Byers played with his usual ease and grace, and his apparently effortless swing, in which there isn't the faintest suspicion of force, was in strong contrast to that of his opponent. The latter, though short in stature, is wiry, lithe and strong as a young Kerry bull, and, taking more than a full swing, he puts every ounce of power and muscle he possesses into his shots."

"A Kid Champion"

The newspaper quoted characterized me as "a kid champion," and the "kid" was very fortunate to win as he did, because in July Byers was playing in such

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form that he won the national championship.

This event was held on the links of the Englewood Golf Club and there were 141 entries and 131 starters. Thirty-six holes of medal play qualified 32 players for match play. Walter J. Travis, with 152, made the best medal score and I came second with 155. George S. Lyon of Toronto had 161, E. M. Byers 162 and H. Chandler Egan of Exmoor 159. I defeated Percy R. Pyne, 2d, of Princeton 7 and 5 in the first round of match play and Archibald Graham of North Jersey 4 and 3 in the second round. There were now but eight of us left in this, my fourth attempt to win the championship, and I was nearer the goal than ever before.

Nearer the Goal

In the third round which was to decide whether I was to be one of four sur-

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vivors or out of it altogether, I found myself again facing Walter J. Travis. In practice rounds I had lowered the amateur record of the course twice with a 74 and a 71, and the match with Travis was progressing very satisfactorily when a photographer snapped his camera at me quite unexpectedly, so far as I was concerned, and I made a bad shot. Under ordinary circumstances I am by no means camera-shy, but when a golfer is under high pressure the slightest unusual distraction will cause him to take his eye off the ball. There is no reason why one bad shot should lose a match, but in this case I foolishly lost my temper with the result that Travis took hole after hole and finally won by 3 to 2. The lesson was a severe one and I have not forgotten it to this day. I do not mean to be understood as claiming that but for the

Lost Temper, Lost Match

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camera man I would have beaten Travis, and I am not relating this incident as an excuse for my defeat. Always, to the victor belongs the full credit, and a poor loser in golf is a pitiable object. Travis played the better golf and won the match, but I handicapped myself by losing my temper. MORAL: *Never lose your temper!*

No Excuse for Defeat

In mentioning this incident the New York Evening Telegram of July 16, 1906, said: "In his temperament, if not carefully self-guarded, he (Travers) fails. It was then he lost to Travis. He lost temper over the clicking of a camera and the failure of one or two succeeding shots to come off."

I have had similar provocation since then, but one lesson of this kind was enough. I make it a point to hold my temper as firmly as I grip my clubs.

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Byers the Champion

In the fourth round Travis encountered E. M. Byers and joined me in the discard. Byers defeated him 4 up and 3 to play and then met George S. Lyon in the final, winning the championship by 2 up.

In April, 1907, Travis and I played a very close match at the Garden City Golf Club in the final for the chief cup. There had been a snow storm the previous day and a violent wintry gale was blowing to add to the difficulties. We each turned in 164 for 36 holes and the match was all square on the thirty-sixth green. Two extra holes were played, the thirty-seventh being halved in 4's and Travis won on the thirty-eighth green with a 3 to my 4.

As the following comments from a newspaper indicate, the match was a gruelling one:

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"Walter J. Travis was forced to go 38 holes yesterday to win the chief prize in the Garden City Golf Club's tournament from Jerome D. Travers. It was probably the longest fight ever put up by the man who has won more honors in the royal and ancient sport than any other American. Only once in the two rounds was there as much as three holes difference between the two players and then at the end of the fifth hole in the afternoon when Travers was 3 up.

A Long Battle

"Whether Travis became scared at that point and let himself out will never be known, but his reserve power was certainly drawn upon at that point, and he made a spurt that within four holes had squared the match. Travis, as always, excelled in judgment and straightness. Travers seemed to disdain trouble for the sake of getting out of it, where most

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golfers would be helpless. The wind, always bothersome over the course, was the worst on record yesterday and played as great havoc with putting as with driving.

"The match should have gone to Travers, but he almost deliberately threw away his opportunity by slipping up on a putt on the thirteenth and again on the seventeenth where he followed a poor approach with a wretched putt. Even Travis had a fit of overconfidence that prolonged the struggle several holes. Nervousness in putting by Travers on the second extra hole brought the match to an end."

Nothing Thrown Away

The statement that I "almost deliberately threw away" my opportunity is amusingly absurd. A contestant in a match of such a strenuous character is doing his level best to win, and I was

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not deliberately throwing anything away to an opponent of the calibre of Travis. Under the nervous tension produced by a 38 hole match of this importance, a player at times will miss absurdly easy shots—shots that ordinarily would not bother him in the least. Let the New York Sun describe the two concluding holes:

"Next a half on the first extra hole in 4, where Travers putted past a stymie. Playing for the thirty-eighth hole Travis was trapped back of the green and Travers within ten feet of the hole. It was even betting Travers would get a 3 and Travis a 4. The reverse happened and determined the issue. Travis pitched up dead to the hole from the hazard, while Travers tried to 'gobble' a two and then missed a two-foot putt for a 3. . . . In the sustained brilliancy of the golf in

Pitched Dead to the Hole

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stress of wind, in its many fluctuations and in its duration, the match will not be equaled in a long time."

Yes, it was a grand golf game—even if Travis did take home the cup.

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CHAPTER VI

MY FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

MY father moved to Montclair, N. J., and the golf season of 1907 found me representing the Montclair Golf Club. The first important tournament of the year was the Metropolitan championship which was held on the links of my old club, Nassau, and thither I went to defend my title of Metropolitan champion. For the second time I fought my way through to the final in which I met the veteran, Findlay S. Douglas. At the conclusion of the morning round I was 4 up and in the afternoon I increased the lead and won the 1907 championship by 8 up and 7 to play.

Travers versus Douglas

Being a Jerseyman, I was now able to compete in the championship of the New

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Jersey State Golf Association for the first time. The tournament was held on the links of the Baltusrol Golf Club and Max Behr of Baltusrol and I faced each other in the 36 holes final. I had a 79 as against an 80 for Behr in the morning round and finished 3 up. The home coming nine holes in the morning and the outgoing nine holes in the afternoon were each done in 36 strokes, giving me a 72 for 18 consecutive holes. The record for the course at that time, 71, was held by George Low, the club's professional.

Champion of New Jersey

The match ended on the twelfth green in the afternoon, and I had added the New Jersey State championship to the Metropolitan by a score of 7 up and 6 to play.

When the national championship tournament opened on the links of the Euclid Club, Cleveland, Ohio, July 9, I entered the contest for the fifth successive

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time feeling hopeful but by no means sanguine.

After the battle a newspaper quoted me as having said: "I came to Cleveland intending and expecting to win. It seemed to me that it was my turn to capture the title."

My Match With Byers

I made no such statement. Like the other players, I went to Cleveland intending to win if I could, but not expecting to do so. I had been outplayed in four national championships already and I knew how hard the game was and how fast the company. One of my friends, a famous golfer and a contestant in the tournament, had more confidence in me than I had myself. He bet considerable money at odds of one to ten that I would carry off the championship medal. When he told me what he had done I called him a fool.

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"You'll lose your money, man," I said.

Then I thought the matter over a few minutes, hunted up the Pittsburgh millionaire who was offering ten to one against me, and made a small wager on myself at the same odds. There were 118 entries and 102 starters with the usual 36 holes of medal play to qualify 32 contestants for match play. Travis won the medal for the lowest score, 146, my score was 153, Champion Byers had 162, and the highest medal score to qualify was 165. My first opponent at match play was W. A. Stickney, St. Louis Country Club, whom I defeated by 3 and 1. My second round was with Frederick Herreshoff and ended in my favor 3 and 2, and in the third round I defeated Warren K. Wood of Homewood in a close match, being 1 up at the finish.

Low Score for Travis

In the fourth round I found myself

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matched against E. M. Byers of Allegheny, the holder of the national championship title. He was not in his best form, for he went out in 43 as against my 36 and at the end of the first nine holes I was 4 up. I won the ninth with a 35-foot putt for a 3 which was two under bogey, and on the thirteenth I laid a 185 yards' cleek shot dead to the hole —two feet from it, to be exact—ran down the putt in 3 to his 4 and won the match 6 up and 5 to play.

Graham against Travers

I was now in the final for the championship itself and my opponent was Archibald Graham, North Jersey Country Club. Travis had been beaten in the third round by W. C. Fownes, Jr., of Oakmont by 1 up in a twenty-hole match, and Fownes had succumbed to Graham. About 1,200 people composed the gallery in the morning round and double that

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number followed the match in the afternoon. One of the best accounts of the championship final was written by the New York Tribune correspondent and I hope I shall be pardoned for quoting it in full:

"Jerome D. Travers of Montclair, N. J., won the national amateur golf championship title on the links of the Euclid Club here to-day, defeating Archibald Graham of the North Jersey Country Club by 6 up and 5 to play in the thirty-six hole final round.

"Save for a brief period early in the day Travers was never down. He reached the turn 2 up, and, although Graham drew level later on, Travers again shook off his opponent, and ended the morning round two holes to the good. At the turn in the afternoon the Montclair crack had increased his advantage

Two Holes to the Good

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PLATE I—THE HAVEMEYER CUP

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to 4 up, and after that the ultimate result was never in doubt in the minds of the gallery.

"In brief, it may be said that Travers won because he played the same unbeatable golf that has marked his work ever since the match play began on Thursday morning. The achievement of this young man, who is only twenty years old, is regarded as the more remarkable from the fact that this makes him a triple champion. To hold the national, Metropolitan and New Jersey titles all at the same time is something hitherto unheard of. *"Unbeatable Golf"*

"Travers's medal score for the eighteen holes play in the morning was 75; for the first nine holes of the afternoon, 36, and he was one under bogey on the last four holes played. Graham took 78 in the morning, 38 for the first nine holes

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in the afternoon and was one over bogey on the last four holes.

"Graham played a plucky game, but was simply outclassed by a golfer who, to quote the language of President Chauncey of the United States Golf Association, gave the finest exhibition of golf that has ever been seen since the amateur championship tournament was first played.

" 'Travers is the logical winner of this tournament and deserves the championship,' said the veteran Walter J. Travis, after watching the New Jersey golfer hole out the putt that brought him national honors. 'He had the hard side of the draw and waded through a lot of high-class players to the finish of the tournament.'

Logical Winner

"Travers played brilliant golf to-day, almost as perfect, in fact, as that shown

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in yesterday's sensational match with Warren K. Wood. He was in trouble occasionally, but his iron shots several times won him holes which apparently he had lost. Only once did he display poor judgment. That was at the seventh hole in the afternoon round. The distance to this hole is 462 yards, with a big bunker guarding the green thirty yards from the cup. Graham took a chance after his long drive to carry the bunker, and got off a low ball that carried more than 200 yards.

Into the Bunker

"Travers tried the same shot, but could not get the distance, although he made a perfect stroke, and his ball plumped into the bunker, this shot losing him the hole. Travers, however, generally outdrove Graham, his iron shots were almost invariably better placed, and his work on the greens, the most delicate

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stroke of golf, was far superior to that of the North Jersey man.

"There was a southwest wind blowing when the pair left the first tee, but it did not have sufficient strength to interfere with the contestants. A tremendous gallery followed the pair.

"That both men were likely to engage in a long driving competition was apparent at the outset, when their tee shots almost reached the bunker. The drives were good for 260 yards. Both approached to the edge of the green and halved in 4. The same even division was recorded at the next hole, although Graham had the luck to have his half-topped drive jump the ditch.

Two Long Drivers

"Travers reached the third green, a distance of 205 yards, with his cleek, but his approach putt was too strong by seven feet, and as he failed to get down the

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next Graham won in 3 to 4. This made the Paterson man 1 up, but his advantage was brief, as Travers won the 414-yard fourth in a capital 4. Graham penalized himself by a sliced drive. They were then all square.

"From the fifth tee Travers got the longer ball by twenty yards, while Graham's second shot was sliced and his third fell green shy. Travers was past the pin on his second and won in 4 to 6, making him 1 up. A slice to the woods cost the Montclair man the next hole, Graham winning in 4 to 5, thereby squaring the match again.

A Slice to the Woods

"Although the seventh hole is 462 yards, both men got home in 2. A weak approach putt on Graham's part enabled the other to win in 4 to 5. This made Travers again 1 up. His tee shot to the short eighth hole came within an ace of

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being bunkered, but a deadly approach enabled him to halve in 3. Although Graham topped his second shot going to the ninth, he recovered so well that all he needed was to bring off a two-foot putt for a halve in 5. He failed, however, and Travers turned for home 2 up. His card at that point showed 37 strokes. Graham needed an even 40.

Two Up at the Turn

"A beautiful drive of 225 yards by Graham reached the tenth green, and, as Travers was a trifle short, the Paterson man won in 3 to 4. After a half-topped drive from the eleventh tee, Travers recovered well and got a halve in 4. Luck favored the Montclair player at the short twelfth, where his indifferent iron shot landed on top of the bunker. But Graham, who made no mistake, won in 3 to 4, and they were again all square.

"They halved the thirteenth in 5, after

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Graham had pulled his drive. He also pulled to the rough going to the fourteenth, but recovered well and got a halve in 4. Graham was short of the next green on his third shot, but a deadly approach enabled him to halve in 5. From the sixteenth tee Graham drove fully 240 yards, but as neither man made any mistakes they halved in 4. Travers won the seventeenth because Graham sliced his second to the woods. The same mistake was repeated by Graham going to the home hole, and Travers won again in another par 4, thus enabling the Montclair player to retire for luncheon with an advantage of 2 up. He had made the round in 75 to 78 for Graham.

Two Up at 18 Holes

"Starting out in the afternoon, Travers went so fast that his card showed one under fours for the first six holes. Against such a pace as that the Paterson man did

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well to win one hole, the second, where he brought off a tricky putt for a 3.

"To offset this Travers won the third, fourth, fifth and sixth holes in rapid succession, making him 5 up. He won the third because Graham topped his drive, while at the next the Paterson player never had a chance for Travers after driving 250 yards laid his second within five yards of the pin and won in 4 to 5. The hole is 414 yards. At the next Graham missed a two-foot putt for a halve and followed this by pulling his drive to the rough from the next tee.

Missed a Two-foot Putt

"Now 5 up, Travers seemed to become a trifle careless and at the next hole made the error in judgment previously mentioned, and at all events it was Graham's hole in 4 to 6, and he followed this up by laying his iron shot within five feet of the pin at the short eighth and brought

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off the putt for a 2. This left Graham 3 down.

"The accurate long game of Travers then began to tell again, as his second shot reached the far edge of the ninth green and the hole was his in 4 to 5. That made him 4 up. Although the tenth hole is 235 yards, Travers drove clear across to the far edge, and, laying his approach putt stone dead, won in 3 to 4, making him 5 up. Graham won the next because his opponent fell short on the approach. To the short twelfth Travers laid his tee shot within fifteen feet of the cup, and then further disconcerted his man by laying him a stymie. Under the circumstances it was a simple matter to win in 3 to 4.

Stymie for Graham

"Now 5 up once more and with only six holes to go, Travers proceeded to settle matters at the thirteenth. Graham

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handicapped himself by hooking his brassie, so that Travers, who made no mistakes, won in 4 to 5. The bye holes were not played. The cards follow:

Travers,	out.....	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	5—37
Graham,	out.....	4	4	3	5	6	4	5	3	6—40
Travers,	in.....	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	4—38—75
Graham,	in.....	3	4	3	5	4	5	4	5	5—38—78
Travers,	out.....	4	4	4	4	4	3	6	3	4—36
Graham,	out.....	4	3	5	5	5	5	4	2	5—38
Travers,	in.....	3	5	3	4					
Graham,	in..	4	4	4	5	"				

Champion at Last

I was now not only champion of the United States, but Metropolitan champion and New Jersey State champion as well. Fortune was certainly very kind to me in 1907.

In 1908 I won the national championship a second time. The tournament was held at the Garden City Golf Club and I defeated Max Behr in the final by 8 up and 7 to play. Earlier in the year I reached the final in the Metropolitan

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championship but was beaten in by C. H. Seeley of Wee Burn on the thirty-eighth hole.

Beaten in Scotland

In the spring of 1909 I competed in the British amateur championship at Muirfield, Scotland, but was beaten in the first round. That year I did not compete in any of the principal championship events in the United States.

In 1910 I was beaten by Frederick Herreshoff of Ekwanok 4 up and 3 to play in the Metropolitan and did not compete in the national championship.

I joined the Upper Montclair Country Club of Montclair in 1910, and the following spring devoted considerable time to getting "on my game." I won the Metropolitan and New Jersey State championships, and was defeated by Harold H. Hilton, Royal Liverpool, in the third round of the national cham-

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pionship. The match was held at Apawamis and was followed by a gallery of two thousand people. Hilton and Frederick Herreshoff, of Ekwanok, met in the final, and Hilton carried the championship trophy back to England.

Thrice National Champion

In 1912 I won the Metropolitan and national championships, but was beaten in the final of the New Jersey State championship by Oswald Kirkby, of Englewood. The national championship was held at the Chicago Golf Club, and my opponent in the final was Charles Evans, Jr.

It is with a feeling of genuine relief that I "hole out," metaphorically speaking, on the eighteenth green of this autobiographical course, and I desire to tender the reader my heartfelt apologies for having said so much about myself.

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CHAPTER VII

HOW TO LEARN TO PLAY GOLF

GET started right. That is doubtless the most important bit of advice an expert can give the man who is ambitious to learn to play golf and play it well. Too many beginners are taught by golfers who know practically nothing about the game themselves. This is a plain case of the blind leading the blind. How shall the beginner, groping about in the darkness of ignorance, ever find the putting green ahead and hole out in a reasonable and respectable number of strokes? In golf parlance he is bunkered the moment he leaves the tee, and stymied as soon as his ball reaches the green.

Bunkered and Stymied

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Good Advice Needed

Get started right. Employ a competent professional the first day you take up the game and obey his instructions implicitly. Make them your golf religion. Don't listen a minute to Tom, Dick or Harry. Too many instructors are like too many cooks. They will spoil the Scotch golf broth. Get started young, if you can, the younger the better. I know a boy three years old who swings his tiny driver with unerring aim and has a beautiful follow through. I know another boy, twelve years of age, who plays better golf than two hundred and fifty of the three hundred members of his club. In golf, as in other sports, youth is a great helper, but if you cannot start at three, or twelve, or even thirty-five, start at forty-five or fifty. Remember that 'tis better to have golfed and foozled than never golfed at all.

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Six clubs are all a beginner needs, driver, brassie, cleek, mid-iron, mashie, and putter. After he learns how to use these he can add a mashie niblick for the task of getting out of bunkers and sand traps, and a jigger for running up short approaches. I carry but nine clubs myself, a driver, two brassies, driving iron, mid-iron, jigger, mashie, mashie niblick and putter. The extra brassie is held in reserve to protect me against the loss through breakage of the services of a valuable club. There are putters of many kinds, but I prefer the center shafted type, or Schenectady putter. In 1904 when I was seventeen years of age I was matched for the first time against Walter J. Travis. On the eve of the game a friend loaned me a putter of this sort. I practiced a short time with it, used it throughout the entire match without

Six Clubs for the Novice

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missing a single putt and my friend gave it to me after the game. For nine years, in victory and in defeat, that identical center shafted putter and I have been inseparable companions.

Learn Clubs Separately

If I were a golf instructor it would be some little time before my pupil were allowed to go round the links. Starting with the wooden clubs, driver and brassie, I would have him learn each club separately. I would place him on the tee with a peck of golf balls beside him and a caddie on the fair green ahead to chase them. For an hour at a time I would instruct him in the art of driving alone, striving to correct his mistakes before they became habit, showing him how to grip his club, how to address the ball, how to follow through properly. At the end of an hour, if he were an apt pupil, he would know something about driving

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whereas, if he had devoted the time to play over the links with six different clubs, he would have learned nothing of value about any one of them.

Then I would take him out on the fair green, place a brassie in his hand and have him put in another hour learning how to use this club. I would explain to him the difference between a good brassie lie and a poor one, laying particular stress upon the fact that a poor lie usually means a poor shot and that one of the first things to learn about this club is when *not* to use it.

An Hour of Putting

If, after an hour of driving and another hour of brassie play, the novice felt the need of something less strenuous, I would then have him devote another hour to putting. I would show him the proper stance and how to grip the club and at the end of his first long lesson he would

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know more about putting than the average beginner knows after he has played the entire course a dozen times with all the clubs.

In the same manner I would instruct him in the use of the cleek, mid-iron and mashie, assigning from half an hour to an hour to each club, and when he had gained a fair working knowledge concerning the manipulation of these clubs and the driver, brassie and putter, I would turn him loose upon the links for an entire round of the eighteen holes. When, in response to different needs, he was compelled to play one club after another, each club would not be a comparative stranger but an old friend with which he was already familiar through hours of practice. I do not carry a cleek myself because I get better results with a driving iron, but I would not advise a

Each Club an Old Friend

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novice to follow this example. Also, unlike many players, I do not use a spoon because I found that it shortened my game and that I was playing it when I should have relied upon the mid-iron.

I have laid particular stress upon the necessity for long practice with each club because it is difficult for a beginner to learn the game if he only plays eighteen holes once or twice a week and contents himself with that. Walter J. Travis, who learned to play golf after he was 35, is probably the most remarkable example of what can be accomplished by constant, patient, untiring practice. No man in America ever worked so hard to become a great golfer as he did, and as his reward he has won the amateur championship of the United States three times and the British amateur championship once. Furthermore, he is the only Ameri-

Necessity of Long Practice

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can amateur who ever succeeded in winning the British championship.

One Club for Hours

When Travis is "off his game" and is not driving, approaching or putting as he should, he goes out on the links alone and plays with one club or another for hours, practicing the same shot over and over until he has recovered his very best form.

I have done the same thing myself on many occasions. I have played the same shot fifty times. I have putted for two hours at a stretch, placing my ball at varying distances from the hole, trying for short putts, long putts, up hill and down hill putts and putts across a side hill green where the ball must follow a crescent-like course if it is to be holed out or go "dead to the hole." During the afternoon round of my match against Harold H. Hilton, the British champion,

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at the national amateur championship on the Apawamis links in 1911, I had before me what my own club's champion declared was an "impossible" putt. Of the two thousand people following the match, most of those near the green no doubt shared his opinion. I was not very hopeful myself. My ball was at least twenty feet from the hole, the green was of the undulating, billowy type and it was a down hill putt.

"Never Up, Never In"

Remembering the old adage, "Never up, never in," I struck the ball a bit too hard, but it raced down the green as if drawn by a magnet, struck the opposite side of the cup, leaped into the air an inch or two and dropped safely into the hole.

"If you hadn't hit the hole exactly square, Travers, you would have been out of bounds," was Oswald Kirkby's hu-

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morous description of the shot after the game.

A putt of this sort is usually called a "lucky" putt, and no doubt there is a certain element of luck about it. Yet hours and hours of practice produced the skill and judgment that sank that "impossible" putt.

When I was playing for the championship at Wheaton in 1912, I got into a very high and formidable bunker on an approach shot. The ball was at the very base of the bunker, close up, and the situation was such a difficult one that I had little hope of getting over with one shot. However, I took my mashie niblick, got well under the ball with it and much to my gratification the ball crawled up the steep side of the bunker, moved slowly across its top, struck the putting green and rolled up dead to the hole. A

The Ball Crawled Up

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putt gave me a four and captured the hole.

Many a time I have thrown a dozen balls into a bunker and practiced for an hour endeavoring to discover the most successful method of getting out of this difficult hazard. As in the case of the "impossible" putt, the Chicago bunker shot was successful because hours of faithful study had been devoted to learning the way to do it.

Whippy Shafts Valueless

Many beginners do a great deal of unnecessary fussing about their clubs, discarding this one or that one as of no value when lack of skill and proper practice are more responsible for bad play than lack of merit in the clubs. A novice should buy good clubs and should be largely guided in their selection by a capable professional or amateur. Clubs with whippy shafts are to be avoided and the

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purchase of every new freak club that is placed on the market is a foolish expenditure of money.

In taking up the game the beginner should familiarize himself thoroughly with the etiquette and the rules. Playing the wrong ball, failing to let the pair behind go through when his ball is lost, playing into the pair ahead, or upon the putting green before they have holed out, talking or moving about when an opponent is making a shot, cutting across the course and endeavoring to get in ahead of other players who are going round the entire links—these and other simple infractions of rules and etiquette make the careless beginner unpopular and are the cause of many unpleasant experiences.

A Golf Convert

Not long ago I heard of a very prominent man who made all sorts of fun of golf and for years refused to try to play.

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It was a simple, foolish, easy game, he said, and he knew it would not interest him. Finally a friend dragged him to the links, teed a ball for him and told him to drive. When he had struck four times at the ball without even touching it, he became so exasperated that he bought a set of clubs that very day and started with determination to conquer the little white ball.

To Conquer the Little White Ball

A month later the friend who had dragged him to the links met him hurrying toward the golf club although his left arm was in a sling.

"What are you going to do?" asked the friend.

"Oh, I broke my arm," was the enthusiastic reply, "but I'm going down to play with one hand!"

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CHAPTER VIII

PRACTICAL POINTS ABOUT THE DRIVE

IN the articles that follow, dealing with the various clubs, I shall endeavor to impart information that shall be of value both to the novice and to the player who has already acquired some knowledge of the game but who, possibly, has developed some annoying fault he is anxious to correct. Even the best of players are "off their game" at times and if I can help them solve their problems and give the beginner the right start, I shall consider that the time and effort expended upon this book was not expended in vain.

"Any Fool Can Drive"

I have heard it stated that "any fool can drive," but steady, consistent, meri-

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torious driving is not an art that is easily acquired nor, once acquired, easily retained. How often one hears this or that player say: "Yesterday I was driving like a fiend, but to-day I cannot hit one right to save my life!"

Getting One's Drive Back

The main trouble with golfers of this type is that they actually know very little about the science of driving. While they are lining them out well from the tee the feeling of confidence thus inspired keeps them going from one good drive to another, but let them miss one or two and they promptly commence pressing or blindly experimenting and they go all to pieces. Confidence once lost, it is a difficult task to get one's drive back. On the other hand, the golfer who knows just what he is doing and how he is doing it, is speedily able to discover where the fault lies and correct it.

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Beyond doubt the drive is the most spectacular and interesting incident of the royal and ancient game, yet comparatively few ever learn to drive in proper style or to feel the pleasant and fascinating sensation of sweeping the little white ball away for upwards of two hundred yards straight down the course. Careful observation of the work done by the majority of players who, by their interest in the game and the support they give it, make possible the many fine golf courses, shows that they hit the ball rather than swing at it and sweep it away.

Avoid Pressing

While I recognize the fact that there are many golfers who, on account of their build or other physical peculiarities, can never acquire the true golfing stroke, I believe that they can materially improve their play by endeavoring to fashion their swing more in accordance with the ac-

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PLATE III—MY GRIP FOR THE DRIVE

I grip the club in the palm of my left hand and the fingers of my right. Th
hand grips the club firmly throughout the swing. The right hand loosens slight

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cepted principles of the stroke as set down by experts. First of all, I desire to say as emphatically as I can,

"Avoid pressing!"

For the benefit of the novice, pressing is the effort to hit every full shot with every pound of strength he can transmit to the ball through the instrumentality of the club. Many golfers who play a very fair game wonder at their occasional lapses from best form when all that is wrong is an involuntary desire to get just a little more distance than they are able to secure with safety.

Pressing Defined

Shortly before the amateur championship of 1907, I had a spell of pressing and found myself topping or half topping many tee shots and brassies through the green. I had previously been playing very good golf and probably became overconfident of getting the

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ball away sweetly every time. I could not find out where the fault was for some weeks, then suddenly I discovered that I was carrying the club too far back on the up swing and losing control of it as a natural consequence. I gradually tamed down my swing and stroke and got back to my best game in time for the championship at Cleveland which I won.

The Steady Driver Wins

There are a few good players who press every tee shot and drive some very long balls, but what they gain in distance is generally secured at a sacrifice in accuracy regarding direction that makes the transaction a bad bargain. Mere distance in driving only plays a small part in the game of golf, so it is absurd to try to be a long player until one has acquired sufficient efficiency at medium distances to justify the effort. I prefer the short and steady driver to the long

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PLATE IV—MY GRIP FOR THE DRIVE, SECOND VIEW

Relaxing the index fingers of both hands gives more freedom to the wrists.

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PLATE V—STANCE FOR THE DRIVE

owing the ball played off the right foot which is about three inches in adva the left.

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and unsteady one. The steady driver is not so interesting to the gallery, but he will always have the advantage over the inaccurate slugger and win the majority of matches.

The first phase of the drive to be taken up is the tee—the bit of sand upon which the ball is placed before it is driven.

A Low Tee the Best Kind

I am a firm believer in a low tee. Any tee over a quarter of an inch high is a mistake, for it cannot help but cause trouble at other stages of the game. A small amount of damp sand rolled into a little ball and pressed down upon the teeing ground should be all the true golfer needs to steady his ball and get it away far and true.

In order to get increased confidence with the driver and to acquire ability to use it from good lies through the fair green, I advise practice with the club

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without any tee at all. This may be a little difficult at the start, but can be mastered, and when you have learned to get a nice long ball from a good lie on the turf, the luxury of a bit of sand to steady the ball will be more appreciated and give added confidence on your drives.

Low Tee, Long Ball

Another distinct advantage of the low tee is greater distance. Most players who can use the driver through the green have discovered that they get a longer ball than from a tee. This is because the ball, being hit cleanly and fairly just below the center, flies lower and rolls farther. I always try to limit my tee to just enough sand to give me as perfect a lie as I can make, in other words, to duplicate an ideal lie on the turf.

In taking the position to drive the ball from the tee, the very first step in the game of golf, it is necessary to under-

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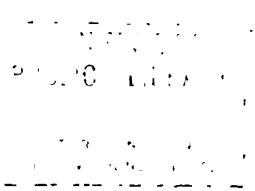

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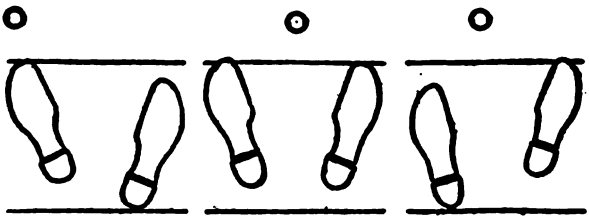
stand that the simple act of placing the feet properly on the ground in relation to the location of the ball on the tee in front of the player has a very important bearing on the result obtained in striking the ball. There are three primary positions assumed by golfers in addressing

Three Primary Positions



1 Off left foot 2. Standing open 3. Off right foot

the ball, with slight modifications to suit the peculiarities of the swing of different individuals.

In each of these positions it is assumed that the feet are placed on the ground at about right angles to the line of play—the imaginary line from the ball to the point it is to be driven. Some players

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put the right foot further forward than the left, and others keep it well back.

Off the Right Foot

Although it is possible to obtain greater distance from a ball played off the left foot on account of the longer sweep of the club to the ball, I prefer to play off the right. Many of the longest drivers prefer the former and even advocate playing the ball from a point a few inches to the left of the left foot.

I find that by playing off the right foot, I possess much better control over the ball, which is a great advantage in giving confidence in the stroke that is to follow. I can see the line of play better and with less effort. In addition thereto, and even more important than all else, I find it easier to keep my eye on the ball. In addressing the ball the right foot is about three inches in advance of the left.

If you will place a ball opposite the

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

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PLATE VII—TOP OF SWING FOR THE DRIVE

The weight is resting on the right foot, and the club is nearly parallel with th

right foot, keep your eye on the ball and take the club back to the top of the swing and then do the same with the ball opposite the left, you will appreciate the point I wish to make clear. In one case you can keep the ball plainly in view without stretching the neck, while in the other there is quite an effort. When one's mind is apt to be more concerned about the state of the score and the ever-present desire to reach the maximum distance down the course, or a certain definite spot to be reached on the shot, every simplifying process that you can devise to keep the eye on the ball without effort is valuable.

The Ball Plainly in View

The only possible objection that may be urged against playing off the right foot is the natural tendency of some players thereby to slice the ball. If this cannot be overcome by the grip, which I

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shall explain later, I should advise that the ball be played a few inches more to the left.

Distance From Ball

Another important consideration in regard to the stance is the matter of distance between the player and his ball. In practice the experienced golfer learns to feel this distance intuitively, though the very best players occasionally make some slight error and get a ball off the toe or heel of their club. For beginners I may state that when my club head is back of the ball, ready for the drive, the end of the shaft when lowered strikes against my right leg just above the knee. This is an old rule, but a safe one in most cases.

As many players seem to be of the opinion that it is the club, not the man who swings it, that gets the results, I may be pardoned for briefly describing my

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driver. It is forty-four inches long, and I prefer a tough, steely shaft with just enough give in it so that I can feel the head of the club. The leather grip on the club is, if anything, a shade smaller than the average, as I like to get my fingers well around it. My club weighs thirteen ounces. The face has very little loft, with a hitting surface two inches long by one and a quarter inches deep. The lead in the back of the club head is a shade toward the toe. I grip the shaft firmly in the palm of my left hand and in the fingers of the right with both first fingers loose and the others very tight. The first fingers are almost entirely free from the shaft, with the tips resting on the leather, curled inside the thumbs. Both thumbs are pressed firmly against the sides of first joints of the second fingers, forming a locking device which

Grip for the Drive

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prevents any possible turning of the shaft.

My Grip Explained

My theory regarding this grip is that it permits greater freedom of the wrists and enables me to get greater power into the stroke without deflecting the club head from its proper sweep in the swing to the ball. As a matter of fact, I could not play my game if I grasped the club with all the fingers around the shaft as most players do. My whole left forearm and wrist would be so stiffened and rigid that I could not get any kind of a satisfactory snap into the stroke or a proper carry through.

If you will take a club in your two hands and hold it firmly with all the fingers around the shaft and take a practice swing, and then try it with the first fingers relaxed as I have endeavored to describe, you will see how much more flexibility there is in the latter grip.

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PLATE VIII—FOLLOW THROUGH OF THE DRIVE

Showing how the weight has been shifted from the right foot to the left.

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Various forms of grips have been employed by prominent players, but so far as distance is concerned, I do not believe one grip has much advantage over another, provided both hands work in unison and permit a proper snap of the wrists. Some experts grip the club entirely with their fingers, while others overlap the little finger of the right hand and the first finger of the left, and otherwise produce a close relationship between the two hands. In my own case I am satisfied that by holding the shaft in the palm of my left hand and the fingers of the right I get a longer ball. I grip the club tightly with both hands. The right hand loosens slightly at the top of the swing and tightens in the downward swing when the club head is about two feet from the ball.

Grip versus Distance

The overlapping of the fingers makes

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Overlapping the Fingers

both hands work automatically as one and undoubtedly yields better direction, but at the sacrifice of power and distance. Many players who cannot apparently learn to make both hands work in unison and have no confidence in keeping their ball on the course, could probably improve their game by resorting to the overlapping grip.

The relative position of the hands around the club is always an important factor as controlling direction. If you allow the right hand to turn under more than the left, a pull will result, and if the left is under more than the right, a sliced ball will surely follow. The reason is that in both instances the club head fails to meet the ball at right angles and a rotary or side motion is imparted to the ball, which meeting the resistance of the air, goes to one side or the other.

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To Correct Slice and Pull

The lesson taught by the control of the grip is that if you are inclined to slice, turn the right hand a shade further under until you are able to get away a straight ball. If you are given to pulling your shots badly, a slight turning of the right hand further over the shaft may correct your trouble. In my own play, I always seek a straight ball, and never play for a slice or a pull, except, possibly, when in difficulties. For a slice I bring the right foot about three inches forward of the left and swing the club back, the swing being away from the body instead of around it. For a pull I do exactly the reverse: I bring the right foot back of the left about three inches and swing the club back nearer the body.

In the golfing stroke, the swing plays a most important part. The movement must be positive, but not stiff nor too flex-

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ible. I grip the club firmly in both hands and draw it back close to the ground with my wrists and not with the arms as most players do. I do not strive to keep the face of the club at right angles to the ball, but turn the face away from the ball with my wrists. This turning of the wrists imparts greater speed to the club head and is the great secret of long driving. To master this turn of the wrists is to add many yards to the long game.

Turning the Wrists

In regard to what may be termed the angle of the swing, I take the club head back along the ground and then around rather than up until the shaft is parallel to the ground. In coming down, the club describes the same curve as going up, the club at no time being even approximately perpendicular. There is a gradual turning away of the club face which practically ceases at about the

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PLATE IX—FINISH OF THE DRIVE, FRONT VIEW

The body is directly facing the hole and the full weight has been put into the stro

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height of the right knee, when the club is facing clean in front of me.

Little Force but Great Distance

Many marvel at the great distance obtained by some players who appear to use very little force on the drive. The reason is simple. The player getting such results has learned the art of knowing how and when to use his wrists. Most players have the idea that if they do not take the club head back with its face at right angles to the line of play, they will make a poor shot, and so, instead of striking the ball clean and sharp, they actually push it, and the stroke is thus robbed of most of its speed and power.

In addition to giving power to the stroke, the wrist action I am endeavoring to explain imparts grace and beauty to the swing. The turn of the wrists will bring the club back about one half the distance it must cover in the upward

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swing, and then the arms, combined with the wrists, carry it the rest of the way until it reaches the top of the swing, when the knuckles of both hands are lying flat and uppermost, the toe of the club pointing down. The top of my swing is reached when the shaft of the club is horizontal to the ground. This limitation is reached by practice until it has become almost automatic with me.

The Top of the Swing

At the top of the swing my weight is more on my right leg than on the left. The knuckles of both hands are uppermost and viewed from along the shaft are in a straight line and parallel with the ground, my right hand being slightly relaxed.

The stance should be firm, the weight resting evenly on both feet. I do not bend the right leg, but keep it rigid in order to prevent the common fault of bending

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to the right. As the club is drawn back, I bend the left knee inward and rise slightly on the left toe, the body turning on the hips. When the top of the swing is reached, without pausing, I start the downward swing, bringing the body and arms sharply around, and strike the ball. My weight is distributed evenly and the club head is at the height of the shoulder and toward the rear when the left heel commences to leave the ground.

The Follow Through Described

In the downward swing, much more power than is realized can be applied without sacrificing accuracy. I throw my shoulders around and put them into the stroke. After my arms have been allowed to follow through a reasonable distance, I turn my wrists and finish the stroke over my left shoulder. In the downward swing the stroke is quickened when the club head is about opposite the shoulders

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and the left hand commences to turn. At the instant of impact with the ball the hands are gripping the club as firmly and evenly as possible.

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CHAPTER IX

THE DRIVE—*Continued*

A SUPREME COURT justice known to fame once stepped upon a tee for the first time, teed up and drove his first ball and holed out on his first shot. When told what he had done and how comparatively rare such a feat was, he promptly dropped his driver into the bag and went back to the clubhouse.

Teeing Up Another Ball

"No more golf for me," he said. "If I should try for years I could never equal that shot. No more, I say; I shall rest on my laurels."

In writing about the drive I found that I could not hole out in one chapter, and as the subject is very important and well worth the space, I shall tee up another

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ball, metaphorically speaking, and drive a second time.

Cause of Bad Shots

A very important thing to remember is to keep your eye fixed on the ball throughout the swing and not to move the head. It is a well-known fact that more bad shots are produced by taking the eye off the ball than in any other way.

Keep the Head Still

If the head is kept perfectly still it is almost impossible to take the eye off the ball. It is quite natural for the player to look up for a final peep at the spot to which he hopes to send the ball, and by so doing miss the shot. When I am playing in any important match, I always keep saying to myself, "Keep your eye on the ball!" and if players generally would only do the same thing, many a match that has been lost might have resulted differently. I always keep my eye on the back center of the ball.

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Timing of the Swing

A proper timing of the swing is essential to consistent long driving. If the hands are in advance of the club head at the instant of contact with the ball, a slice is sure to come off and the reverse, if the club head meets the ball ahead of the hands, a pull will result. Do not be overanxious and hurry the swing. Hitting too quickly is a great fault, especially in the long game. The beginner should not strive for distance until he has cultivated a good swing. Greater distance may easily be acquired after one has learned to time his swing accurately to get the ball away cleanly. Many strokes are missed by pressing, or, in other words, trying to hit too hard.

Long driving depends upon the speed of the club head when it is about two feet from the ball. It is a mistake to attempt to put power into the stroke from the top

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of the swing. The time to put on power is about half-way down, so that the greatest speed is acquired just before and at the instant of contact with the ball. Power applied at this point is less apt to spoil the perfect sweep of the stroke.

Most players get a slice on their drives. This is a difficult fault to correct and in most cases it comes from the way in which they swing their clubs back, and their failure to turn the face of the club away from the ball as previously indicated.

To Correct a Slice

An excellent method for overcoming the tendency to slice is to grip the club very tightly with the right hand, allowing the knuckles of the right hand to turn more under and keeping the left elbow close to the body. This will assist in getting the club head around before the hands.

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Using the Winds

To drive far and true through strong winds from different directions and to take advantage of the wind when it can be used to secure greater distance than would be possible under ordinary conditions is an art in itself and well worthy of the careful study of those ambitious of improving their game.

Some players utilize a slice as well as a pull in their play in high winds, but I never use a slice except in the case of a ball which I wish to drop dead on a long shot to a green between which and myself, possibly, lies a hazard. I consider a slice a dangerous stroke to cultivate, for often it is a fault very difficult to correct, and if you seek to use it, the practice of doing so may at a critical moment lead you to misfortune.

A sliced ball is very much intensified by the wind, and when it gets through its

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Playing for a Pull

forward motion often goes surprisingly far off to the right. On the other hand, a pulled ball is always under better control and may be counted on to gain greater distance under nearly all conditions. I play nearly all my full shots with a suggestion of pull on them to hold the ball low and get the roll.

My treatment of the shot through a cross-wind from the right is to play for a pull, with an allowance for the wind. In other words, I am at a point more or less to the right of the line according to the strength of the wind. The wind and the pull will bring the ball back to the center of the course, and when it reaches the ground it will roll forward for a long distance, assisted by the rotation toward the hole imparted by the pull and aided by the wind.

Under similar conditions many players

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seek a slice to neutralize the effect of the wind on the ball in its flight, but by so doing lose much distance, as the ball resists the wind all the way and when it drops will stop dead. The principle involved should be easy for anyone to understand. A pulled ball rotates from right to left in flight and consequently slides gracefully through a wind from the right and is assisted by it, while a sliced ball rotates from left to right and is constantly resisting the wind all the way, losing carrying power and force thereby.

Pulled and Sliced Balls

To meet conditions where a strong wind is coming from the left, I play for a perfectly straight shot aimed a shade to the left of the line, so that the wind will bring it back to the center of the course. A straight ball will carry farthest through such a wind and when it reaches

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the ground will roll some distance, assisted by the wind. Many players try for a pulled ball under similar conditions to hold the ball true to the line. This is open to objections, for the reason that such a ball rotating from right to left is resisting the wind all the way and loses power and distance. Sometimes when playing in a very strong gale, when distance is not so much of a factor as safety in the play of a hole, I play for a pull. Any inclination to slice with the wind from the left will be so accentuated that the ball will probably go beyond the right-hand edge of the fair green. As I have stated before, a straight ball is best for safety and distance, and one with a shade of hook is easiest to hold the fair green.

Against the Wind

Playing against the wind, it is necessary to get a low ball to gain any satis-

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factory distance. I play it well off my right foot, seeking a low, slightly hooked ball, commonly known as a "wind-cheater." A hooked ball always flies low and may be safely counted on to avoid the real force of the wind found over twenty feet above the ground. In this stroke the distribution of the weight is a very important factor. The weight should be more on the left foot than the right, and the club should be swung back low to the ground, with the arms taking it around the body. This flat swing back of the club also tends to keep the ball low. The thing to be avoided in driving into the wind is the dropping of the right shoulder, which will always result in a badly skied ball which will ride high on the breeze and when its forward power is finished will drop back of the point it reached on the carry. The wind must be

To Keep the Ball Low

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pierced by the ball at the point of least resistance to secure distance, and this is as low down to the ground as you can possibly manage to get it and be sure of hitting it well.

Down the Wind

Strange as it may seem, many players find it extremely difficult to take advantage of a strong following wind. This is chiefly owing to the fact that they seek to hit the ball too hard and consequently press. Then, again, there is some resistance of the wind on the club head in the back swing that deflects the head from the true line when it meets the ball. In playing down the wind, I tee the ball a shade higher than usual, and, taking things easy, try to get the ball away cleanly. For this stroke the swing back should be more vertical than for the ordinary drive, in order to be sure of getting the ball up. If it be hit cleanly and

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accurately the wind will assist it both in its flight and roll. A slight hook on the shot is advantageous in increasing the roll. Above all things, do not press before the wind unless you are absolutely sure of getting the ball up. Great feats in the way of distance have been accomplished playing before the wind, and there is wonderful fascination in trying to reach spots further out than ever before attained under such conditions, but except for the sport of the thing it is not safe or winning golf.

Topped Drives

Topping the drive is caused in most cases by failure to keep the eye on the ball. Then, again, some players top their drives by pulling their arms up just before the instant of contact by the club head with the ball. This upward movement causes the club head to strike the top quarter of the ball and not its back

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center. Players who press their tee shots frequently get a topped ball through hitting so hard that the eye is momentarily taken off the ball.

The best cure for a spell of topping is to moderate the force of the swing, and to look underneath or immediately back of the ball. Seek to get the ball accurately on the center of the face of the club, regardless of distance, until you have regained confidence in the stroke. An aid to this is to chalk the face of your club, which will plainly indicate where the ball is met by the club. When it is remembered that in the drive the player has everything to his liking, a teed ball and a comfortable stance of his own selection, it must be conceded that it should be the easiest shot of the game.

Sclaffed Drives

As in topped drives, most sclaffed shots are caused by taking the eye off the ball.

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A dropping of the right shoulder during the swing also brings the club to the turf before the ball is reached. Still another cause for sclaffing is standing too near the ball, when the club head is dug into the ground back of the ball, owing to the lack of room between the player and the ball. The best *cure* for sclaffing is to moderate the stroke and to keep the eye on the front center of the ball, or even an inch or two in advance of it, if necessary. By holding the left elbow fairly close in toward the body in the address, and by keeping the right shoulder in its proper place during the swing, this fault can be readily corrected.

"The Snap of the Wrists"

In further explanation of what is known as the turn of the wrists, I may add that the first movement is to swing the club head just above the ground as far as the left forearm will go without

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rising. In this movement there is no turning of the wrists as the term is generally understood, but the movement is one in which the forearms, wrists and hands all act together, in a gradual turning over of both hands so that the knuckles of the left hand are more above than in the address. At the same time the right hand turns over so that the palm is uppermost, with a slight backward bending of the wrist. This brings the club head up about to the level of the hip, with its face pointing almost straight in front of me. Then I continue the upward movement with the arms, which ends with the shaft of the club being parallel with the ground and its toe pointing downward. At the top of the swing the right hand is slightly relaxed. In the downward swing, the hands, arms, and wrists automatically, without any con-

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scious effort, practically duplicate in reverse the movement described in going back and up.

Some players have a wrong conception of what is known as the "snap of the wrists" and *bend* their wrists instead of turning them over as described, in a vain effort to impart a snap to the stroke, which is a dangerous performance at best and does not impart any increased power or speed to the stroke.

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CHAPTER X

HOW TO PLAY THE BRASSIE

ON all first-class golf courses it is customary to lay out some holes requiring the use of a wooden club for the second shot in order to reach a distant green, or get in position for a short approach on a very long hole. After the drive it very frequently happens that the ball is found in a lie that precludes the use of the driver, and calls for a club better adapted to get a quick rise of the ball and cut its way through the turf.

Using the Driver

When the ball is in a perfect lie you should use your driver, taking the identical stance and swing as in the tee shot. A driver, however, is only recommended when the lie is perfect, or when an effort

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PLATE X—ADDRESS FOR A BRASSIE SHOT

Right foot advanced, ball opposite the left heel

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for extra distance must be risked by the state of the score. If it be possible to reach the green or make the required distance by playing either your brassie or driver, by all means use the brassie because it is a safer shot, and you have far better control of the ball.

To Get a Quick Rise

As lies through the fair green depend largely on chance, it frequently happens that the ball will be found lying very close to the ground, or in some slight cup or depression. In order to get it up sweetly you will be forced to adopt a different swing. To assist in imparting a quick rise to the ball, the swing back should be more vertical, the eye being kept, not on the ball itself, but on the ground directly behind it. Stand closer than in driving, with the ball nearer the left foot. If the lie be reasonably good, though near the ground in a slightly

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cuppy spot, it is not necessary to take turf; but if it be poor, you are compelled to dig out a bit of turf behind the ball. It is very important that the shaft of the brassie be strong and stiff to prevent it being deflected when it comes in contact with the ground, which would cause a slice or a pull on the stroke.

Playing a Cuppy Lie

In order to provide for emergencies against the danger of breaking your brassie in playing such lies, it is well to carry an extra one in your bag. The lighter and more whippy your brassie is, the greater the likelihood there is to break it and to find yourself greatly handicapped by being deprived of its use if you have not another at hand.

In playing a cuppy lie, select some spot on the ground directly behind the ball and keep your eye on this spot throughout the swing, and not on the ball. Your

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club head should enter the turf at this spot, and when you feel that it is well under the ball turn your wrists up quickly. It is imperative that both hands should be gripping firmly when the club comes in contact with the ground to avoid any tendency it may have to turn and send the ball flying off to the right or the left.

Firm Grip with Both Hands

Many beginners find it extremely difficult to learn to use the brassie effectively for the reason that they seem to think it is a radically different club from the driver. The main trouble lies in their failure to keep the eye on the back center of the ball or on the ground just back of the ball throughout the swing. If they would but make up their minds to seek not more than seventy-five yards on the stroke at the start and devote their entire attention to an effort to get the ball accurately off the center of the club head

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with a perfectly natural and easy stroke, they would rapidly master the brassie shot.

Advice for the Novice

One of the first things for the novice to learn about the brassie is when *not* to use it. When the lie is bad, or when the ball lies in fairly long grass, or when the bunker ahead is so near that the ball may not rise quickly enough to clear it, the beginner will be wise if he uses the safer mid-iron instead of the brassie. Another thing to be avoided by the novice, or average player, is the inclination to press, and thus take the eye off the ball or the spot immediately back of it. It is far better to get a straight ball down the center of the course than to press and either top, sclaff, slice or pull. By virtue of plenty of practice he should gradually become certain of getting reasonable distance with accuracy, and he can then afford to apply

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PLATE XI—STANCE FOR THE BRASSIE, SIDE VIEW

Keep your eye on the back center of the ball and do not press.

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more speed to the stroke, and attempt longer shots with chances of bringing them off with consistency sufficient to compensate for the occasional wild one out-of-bounds or into trouble.

The Great Recovery Club

In the hands of an expert the brassie is a remarkably useful club for accomplishing brilliant recoveries in the way of long shots out of fairly high grass, out of shallow sand traps and for long shots sliced or pulled around clumps of trees. It is a club upon which the player may almost uniformly depend for getting the ball quickly up from the ground, as easily as with a mid-iron; but for longer distances and with less physical exertion. All golfers ambitious of improving their game should devote hours and days to practice with the brassie until they get absolute confidence in handling it. When the player has once mastered it he may feel

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sure of cutting many strokes off his average card for the round.

Hanging Lies

Great difficulty is experienced by every golfer in learning how to play hanging and side hill lies with the brassie, but the player who through diligent and painstaking practice has successfully solved these problems, should have every reason to feel proud of his proficiency, for he has mastered one of the most difficult shots of the game. The brassie is a most valuable club, saving more strokes for the player than any other club. It frequently happens that at some hole calling for a full second shot with a bunker guarding the way to the green, one man finds it necessary to play short, while his more proficient opponent plays a full brassie, carries the hazard and reaches the green.

In playing a hanging lie where the

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ground slopes toward the point you seek to reach, the chief difficulty is to get the ball up cleanly without digging into the turf back of it. I stand with the ball on a straight line with my left heel, the right foot being about three inches in advance of the left. I then allow my right knee to bend slightly and have the weight of my body resting more on the left leg because the slight bending of the right knee tends to equalize the position of the shoulders in relation to the pitch of the land, and because the left leg's rigidity prevents the tendency to fall forward and top the ball when power is put on the down swing. The swing back should be more vertical than in the tee shot and more out from the body than around it. Just as the club head comes in contact with the ball, draw in your arms and finish out toward the left, which will cause the ball

The Proper Stance for the Stroke

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to slice a bit, but it will rise quickly, which is the chief point desired. It is obvious that an allowance for the slice must be made by aiming toward the left of the line. Holding your wrists well down and getting the ball slightly off the heel of the club will aid it in rising.

Keep the eye on a point on the ground behind the ball throughout the swing. If your opponent's play has placed you in a position where in order to save the hole it is necessary to gain extra distance, you are justified in making the effort, but under ordinary conditions it is dangerous to strive for a long ball from a hanging lie.

Side Hill Lies

The greatest difficulty in properly playing side hill lies where the ball is above or below the player, comes from the tendency to lose one's equilibrium during the swing. This falling backward

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PLATE XII—FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE BRASSIE

At the finish of the swing the body is shown turned directly toward the line of play.

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or forward, as the case may be, will invariably cause a slice or a pull. The harder you seek to hit the ball from a side-hill lie, the harder it is to keep your balance and the greater the unlikelihood of getting a cleanly hit straight ball. Until you have learned to properly execute these difficult side-hill strokes with reasonable accuracy you are at the mercy of the more proficient player who can do so. When you have a little spare time, instead of playing around the links, take your brassie and a few dozen balls and go forth and diligently practice these different lies. Don't be discouraged if improvement appear well-nigh impossible at first, but stick to your practice until you have mastered the difficulties. You can never learn how to play properly until you have learned every stroke in the game by assiduous practice.

Faithful Practice Necessary

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With Ball Below You

When the stroke must be made along a side hill where the ball is slightly below where you stand to address it, stand with the ball about opposite the middle of the body, with the right foot on the line and the left foot about two inches back. In other words, the left foot is about two inches back of the right. When I wrote the above I had in mind the position of my feet on a whitewashed line on the ground parallel to the line of play as shown in the illustrations. By the use of this line one may accurately ascertain the relative positions of the feet.

The main thing to avoid is the tendency of the body to fall forward or down hill, or toward the ball, thereby causing it to slice when the heel of the club comes in contact with it. Therefore, get a firm stance and endeavor to keep the body, shoulders, arms and hands in the proper

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plane throughout the swing. By plane I mean the sweep of the club to the ball, and this sweep should be an exact duplication of the backward swing. When putting power into the stroke on the forward swing one is apt to slightly lose his balance and thereby distort the perfect movement of the club through the plane of its swing. The golfer must seek to keep his hands in exactly the same plane coming down as going up, but even more so than when playing on level ground.

The Proper Plane Explained

In playing a ball that is lying below you there is a tendency on the back swing to throw the arms out from the body, and in the down swing the club will come across the ball, causing a slice.

Any effort toward pressing on this stroke will intensify the likelihood to lose the balance and get a sliced shot. In order to equalize the tendency to slice, it

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is well to make a slight allowance for it and aim a shade to the left of the line of play.

With Ball Above You

Just the reverse of the foregoing, where the ball is above you, you are inclined to fall back from it in the stroke, and by so doing hit the ball with the toe of the club resulting in a pull. It is difficult to swing back away from the body and very natural to swing back close to the body with the result that the ball is pulled. Stand with the ball about opposite the right heel (maybe an inch or two to the left of it) with the left foot four inches back of the right. Stand firm and endeavor to keep the body, shoulders, arms and hands in the proper plane throughout the stroke, to avoid falling away. Seek to get the ball off the center of the club head and get its heel well down without cutting the toe of the club into the ground.

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PLATE XIII—INCORRECT TOP OF SWING WITH THE BRASSI[E]

The club is too vertical. It should be almost parallel with the ground. S[o]

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As there is the ever-present inclination to pull, it is well to make a slight allowance by aiming at a point just a shade to the right of the line of play when attempting this stroke.

The Uphill Lie

Where the play is uphill and the ball must be cleanly picked up at the start, stand with the ball an inch or two to the right of opposite the center of the body, with the right foot about four inches back of the left. The weight is then put more on the right foot than the left and effort made to prevent any falling back that would result in a badly topped ball. Draw the club back close to the ground at the start and take some turf after hitting the ball. If the going is very sharply up hill, keep the eye on a point back of the ball and take some turf with the ball. In this stroke the effort should be to get the ball up quickly, but not any

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higher than is necessary to clear the hill and get the carry you desire.

To Get a Dead Ball

A very useful stroke with the brassie is to use it for a longish carry to a green in a wind from the right, by deliberately playing for a slice. The ball goes for its usual distance through the air, but when it comes to earth it gets very little roll. Play the ball off a point about opposite the left heel, and at the instant of contact draw the hands in a bit. Allowance must be made for the slice partly neutralized by the wind. This shot is particularly effective for a long approach to a green over a hazard just in front of it.

Now and then a brassie shot with a proper amount of hook or pull imparted to it is very useful. For example, one of the finest shots of this character I ever made was at Garden City in 1908 in my match against Walter J. Travis in the

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semi-finals of the national championship. Travis had me 2 down and 4 to play, a very substantial lead, but I captured the next two holes and we were all square. At the next tee I got a good drive and what followed was described by Travis himself in an article in "The American Golfer" for April, 1909. After generously stating that he could testify from personal experience to my "remarkable skill with this club" (the brassie), he wrote:

A Difficult Situation

"Just take, for instance, his second shot on the seventeenth hole at Garden City in last year's (1908) championship in the semi-final round. The match was all even. He was some 240 yards at least from the hole, which was on the right-hand side of the green, with a row of trees bordering the line of play to the right, directly paralleling it. And trouble to

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the left. The least bit of a mistake meant disaster—the loss of at least a stroke—perhaps the loss of the hole! And how superbly he rose to the occasion! His shot was truly magnificent! Played boldly, with a suggestion of hook, it gave him a putt for a 3—and virtually settled the match."

It did settle the match. I finished two up and then defeated Max Behr 8 up and 7 to play in the final round for the championship itself.

The Spoon

The spoon is a club with many features of the brassie, generally with a longer face and slightly more lofted. I never use a spoon, because I believe it tends to spoil a man's game by leading him to spare his shots and shorten his game. I prefer to use the right club for the distance I wish to make, hitting the ball squarely and accurately with about the

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PLATE XIV—STANCE FOR HANGING LIE WITH THE BRASSIE

~~keep~~ the right foot well in advance of the left. Keep the eye fixed on t
~~ground~~ immediately back of the ball.

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same effort every time. Some players use spoons for cleek shots and shorter shafted ones more laid back for mid-iron strokes, but I have never found any necessity for learning how to use two clubs to get about the same result. For the player of slight physique, or for older players, the spoon provides a method of getting greater distance with less muscular effort than cleeks and irons, but for the younger player and for men of normal strength, my theory is that irons are best. I believe in practically playing every full shot for all it is worth, and do not favor three-quarter shots or half shots with a stronger club. Play the right club for the distance and hit every stroke firmly and hard. On short approaches there must be a variation in power, but wooden clubs should be used for their maximum distance safely inside the boundary of pressing.

The Spared Shot not Favored

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CHAPTER XI

HOW TO PLAY THE CLEEK

The Most Powerful Iron

THE cleek is the most powerful iron in the bag and is a close rival of the wooden ones as a distance gainer. My cleek has a shaft two inches shorter than my driver, weighs about sixteen ounces and is heavier than either the driver or brassie. Also, it has an unusually short face. Because of a mistaken idea that the spring of the shaft gives additional distance, many players use cleeks with whippy shafts. Such shafts, I believe, are responsible for a great deal of bad play with the cleek. As accuracy of direction is more important than mere distance at most stages of the game, it is ridiculous to use whippy shafts in cleeks or any other clubs.

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Evils of Whippy Clubs

The more whippy the shaft the less chance one has of getting away a perfectly straight ball, because the give of the shaft at different parts of the swing is apt to permit the head of the club to come to the ball at a different angle from the one sought in the address. If you will make a practice swing with a particularly whippy club you will note that both at the top of the swing, and at a point about half-way down to the ball, there is a bend to the shaft sufficient to materially change the angle of the club head as it meets the ball. When the ball is hit, particularly as turf should be taken after contact on all cleek shots, there is a third give of the shaft that is very apt to result in faulty direction.

If your hands are in advance of the club when it comes in contact with the ball, it stands to reason that the more

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whip you get from the shaft the more intensified will be the inclination to slice. Who ever saw a player putting with a whippy shaft? To my mind it is as foolish to use a whippy shaft in a cleek or any other club as it would be to use it in a putter.

Back Swing More Vertical

In making a cleek stroke, stand closer to the ball than when using the driver, playing it more to the right, with the right foot well advanced and the left foot about five inches back of it. The swing is practically the same as in the drive, except that the club is not carried back quite so far. The backward swing is more vertical, and while with the drive the effort is to swish the ball away, the cleek stroke is more of a hit or chop. Strike firmly into the ball with a strong effort to follow through and get into the turf after contact with the ball.

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PLATE XV—ADDRESS WITH CLEEK

exactly the same as that for the drive but the right foot is further advanced.

HOW TO PLAY THE CLEEK

The difference between the cleek shot and shots with the driver and brassie is that with the former the ball is hit first and then you take turf as you follow through, whereas with the wooden clubs the effort is to pick the ball off the turf, except in the case of a cuppy lie where the turf is sometimes taken before hitting the ball. When a cleek shot is properly made the ball will go off with great speed, traveling comparatively low, and may be depended upon to hold the line with accuracy. The stance should be very firm and the weight should rest fairly even on both feet. At the start of the backward swing turn the wrists over as with the driver, but do not allow the left foot to rise on the toe off the ground as in the tee shot. Try to keep the left foot well rooted to the ground, for this will overcome the tendency of lifting

The Stance Should Be Firm

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the body in the stroke, a habit which frequently leads to a bad shot.

The left heel rises, but only slightly, and the pressure on the ground is through the inner edge of the ball of the foot, rather than on the toe, as in the tee shot.

Turn the body from the waist up, keeping the head perfectly still and hold the eye on the back center of the ball. Do not try to pick up the ball as on the drive, but hit at it accurately and take some turf, and then follow through firmly and positively.

Hit and Take Turf

Most players use a cleek as if they were trying to hit a ball off a putting green without injuring the turf. This, I think, accounts for their poor direction and weak strokes regarding distance. Hit the ball, take some turf and follow through, keeping the eye on the back center of the ball. If you play the shot

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PLATE XVI—ADDRESS WITH THE CLEEK, SIDE VIEW

he ball should be about opposite the center of the body, the right foot well

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in this way you will find that the cleek is a very useful and dependable weapon to have in your bag. Most players never get acquainted with the cleek, and whenever they decide to try a shot with it, do so with fear and trembling and in many instances their over-anxiety leads to misfortune.

Useful and Dependable Weapon

Grip the cleek firmly with both hands to prevent it from turning when it comes in contact with the ground after the ball is struck. The right hand relaxes its grip slightly at the top of the swing, but tightens again in the downward swing as speed is applied and the ball is hit. A common fault with cleek play is dropping the right shoulder, which causes the club head to strike the ground before reaching the ball, and kills the possibilities of the shot. To correct this error, stand an inch or two further away from the ball and

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endeavor to keep the right shoulder in its true plane throughout the swing. In cleek play in the different conditions of wind and for hanging and side-hill lies, the explanations previously given for the driver and brassie under identical conditions apply, with the very slight difference in the swing back and hitting of the ball, as indicated.

Driving-Iron Versus Cleek

Personally, I prefer a driving-iron in place of a regular cleek. The face, instead of being long and narrow like the standard cleek, is deep and short and is, perhaps, laid back a shade less. The face is about one-quarter of an inch deeper than the ordinary cleek, and the head is about one-quarter of an inch shorter. A much lower ball can be driven with this driving-iron, and when there is a high wind a low ball is of great assistance. I seem to possess better control over the

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PLATE XVII—TOP OF THE SWING WITH THE CLEEK

lowing the weight distributed between both feet, the left heel rising but slightly.

flight of the ball with my driving-iron than with a regular cleek, and so prefer to use it.

Good for Direction

In my own game the driving-iron, or cleek, plays a very important part, and I play it with full confidence regarding direction, which frequently enables me to lay a ball close up to the pin on a very long approach to a green. I get a ball almost as long as with a brassie, but more uniformly straight on the line, with a fine roll.

This shot is not a very difficult one, but few players nowadays make it, and in consequence it has won many a hole for me. I have devoted much practice to the stroke, and as a demonstration of its all-around ability I may state that I played the entire links of the Montclair Golf Club in 77 strokes, using my driving-iron alone for every shot from the tee, through

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the green, for approaches, out of bunkers and for putting.

Driving Iron From Tee

On many courses there are holes where it is absolutely dangerous to use a driver from the tee, where the player gets into trouble if his ball go too far. For instance, at Garden City there are some holes where a long player is heavily punished by a full tee shot. During the championship of 1908 I used my driving-iron from several of the tees with good effect where I wanted a drive of slightly over 200 yards, but where one of 240 would have landed me in a bunker or stretch of long grass, and perhaps, penalized me a stroke.

In the championship at Wheaton, in 1912, I was decidedly off my game so far as the wooden clubs were concerned. The course was narrow, and in the finals against Charles Evans, Jr., I practically

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used my driving-iron from the tees. Both rounds on the tenth hole, which is 240 yards, I reached the green with my driving-iron.

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CHAPTER XII

THE GOLFER'S FAVORITE CLUB, THE MID-IRON

THE mid-iron is the Jack-of-All-Trades of golf. One can drive, approach, putt and even get out of a reasonable amount of trouble with it. In one-club contests it plays the star part, for a golfer armed with this single implement of his favorite sport can go round the entire eighteen holes in such low figures, comparatively speaking, that he wonders why the other clubs were invented. As a matter of fact, however, it is not the equal of the driver and brassie for distance, it is far inferior to the mashie for shots that require lofting, and as an ever-present help in trouble it by

The Star in One-club Contests

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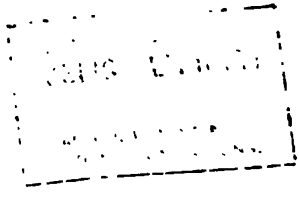
PLATE XVIII—ADDRESS FOR A MID-IRON SHOT

The ball is about opposite the center of the body, the grip the same as for the drive.



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no means supplants the mashie niblick. Nevertheless, as the marine is the Handy Man of the British Navy, the mid-iron is the Handy Club of golf. Furthermore, although the iron clubs include the cleek, driving-iron, mid-iron, jigger, mashie, mashie niblick and putter, the mid-iron alone has won the distinction of being referred to as "the iron."

Easiest Club in the Bag

The mid-iron is the favorite club of most golfers. In my own case I would rather play a full iron shot up to the hole than any other stroke in the game. When the caddie hands me the iron I feel sure that the chances of bringing off a successful shot are largely in my favor. Different golfers excel with different kinds of clubs and on different strokes. It does not matter so much regarding the length, loft or shape of the club, as that the player by reason of much practice with it acquires

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confidence that he can get just such results with his favorite club nearly every time he makes a stroke with it. The majority of golfers find that the iron is the easiest club in the bag to play with. They can almost invariably get the ball up cleanly and away. This simplicity is due to the fact that a comparatively short swing is used, and the loft of the club represents the normal, between the cleek and the mashie. The face is not as straight up and down as the cleek, nor as much laid back as the mashie. It is perfectly designed to hit the ball by the simplest sort of a stroke, get it up cleanly and for fair distance.

The Stiff Shaft

In an article elsewhere on the cleek I have pointed out the desirability of using a stiff shaft. This matter of shafts, to my mind, is of great importance, and too much cannot be written on the subject.

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PLATE XIX—TOP OF SWING OF MID-IRON SHOT

The left leg remains rigid and the club should not be taken back quite so far as in a

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Whenever I see a man using a club with a whippy shaft, I always feel that he is laboring under a heavy additional handicap. If you will stop to consider that accuracy is more essential to good golf than mere distance, particularly when playing iron shots, you will readily understand that with a shaft which permits the club head to whip from side to side, it is a mere matter of luck whether you meet the ball squarely on its face or not.

Accuracy versus Distance

My iron is 38½ inches long, one inch shorter than my cleek, and I stand a little nearer the ball when using it. The weight of my iron is 15 ounces. I play the ball from about opposite the center of my body, with the right foot advanced about three inches farther than the left. The weight of the body is more on the right than on the left foot.

The swing with the iron is practically

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a duplication of that with a cleek, with two exceptions. The club is not swung back so far and the back swing is a shade more vertical.

Eye on the Back Center of the Ball

Keep the eye on the back center of the ball and the head still—that old warning which we hear so often, and so often disregard at some critical stage of the game, and make a defective stroke.

In playing an iron shot, the matter of keeping the eye on the ball is of more than ordinary importance. To get satisfactory results the ball must be very accurately hit, and this cannot be done if the eye is not on the ball. The iron stroke, like that of the cleek shot, is more of a hit than a sweep. The club itself should be gripped firmly with both hands, with the wrists stiff when the club head comes in contact with the ball.

Remember, that as in all other iron

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shots, you must hit the ball firmly and then take some turf and follow through. If you learn to do this you will get a longer and straighter ball than if you merely try to pick the ball cleanly off the turf as most players do.

Hit, Then Take Turf

Another important factor in iron play is that of always making a sufficiently strong shot to insure being up to the hole. This is essential on all approach shots. Far too many players are satisfied when playing an approach if they can get the ball near or on the green. They lose sight of the main purpose of all approaches—the desirability of aiming at the hole rather than merely to get on the green. At one time I felt the same way myself concerning the approach shot. About seven years ago I was following a well-known golfer in company with other spectators. I noticed that whenever he

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played his approach shots, he played not for the green but for the pin itself. This was plainly visible by the careful way in which he sought a certain line to the near edge of the green or just short of it, with allowance for the run to the cup. He would make exactly the right allowance on shot after shot, and get down in one putt on enough greens to convince me that this was the secret of the highest grade of golf.

Play for the Pin

Since that time I have devoted much attention to practicing this approach shot to the pin, and I now think it is the strongest part of my game. From the very day I first took it up I could see a marked improvement in my scoring. To put a bit of golf wisdom into verse,

Aim for the hole,
Allow for the roll!

Many well-known writers on golf

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PLATE XX—FINISH AND FOLLOW THROUGH OF MID-I

Remember to hit the ball first and take turf in the follow th

recommend the cultivation of the half-iron shot. That is to say, they spare the shot when the distance sought is too short for a full iron, and too great for a full mashie. This shot is one of the most difficult strokes to master to the extent of securing dependable consistency of execution from it. It is very hard to properly time the stroke. To my mind it is a very hazardous and unreliable shot to attempt in a close match. Naturally, in the half-iron stroke the club is not taken back as far as in the full stroke. Upon the prolongation of the back swing depends altogether the amount of distance that is to be gained on the shot. The wrists, instead of bending, are kept rather rigid. The body, also, is kept still, and there is less pivoting or turning of the body from the hips up, than on the full shot. Instead of raising up on the right

The Half-Iron Shot

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foot, that foot should be kept well rooted to the ground. The right leg should be kept still.

Unless you have mastered the shot, which it may take you years to do, you will find it very hard to hold the ball on line on account of the difficulty of properly timing the shot. As I have stated elsewhere in this book, I do not believe in spared shots, and I seldom use the half-iron stroke unless there is a very strong head wind. In place of spared shots with the mid-iron, I use the jigger and get far better results.

To Get a Pulled Ball

It often happens that it is necessary to pull your second shot with a mid-iron in order to reach the green. Some obstacle, such as a tree or a grove of trees, juts out into the line between you and the hole. In other situations you may find the hole laid out at an angle, and if you do not

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"E XXI—HOW THE CLUB SHOULD TURN AWAY FROM THE BAL
h cleek and mid-iron shots, the club as it is brought back should turn away fro
the ball as shown in the picture.

make proper allowance from the tee, you are compelled to pull the second shot to get to the green. To secure a pulled ball with a mid-iron, stand with the ball opposite the center of the body with the left foot about four inches in advance of the right. Swing the club back close to the body and, instead of finishing straight on the line of play, let your arms follow through out from the body, toward the right of the line of play. If these directions are closely followed the ball will gradually work to the left in its flight.

If you want a quicker pull, turn the toe of your club in and make the swing as above. This shot has often pulled me out of a bad place and enabled me to win or halve a hole that otherwise would have been lost.

Chip Shots with Iron

There is a very useful shot with the mid-iron known as the chip shot or run-

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up approach, when the ball is lying from five or ten yards from the green with rough grass intervening. When the ball is in the same situation with smooth grass between it and the green, I advise the use of the putter. To get over or through the rough grass irregular of texture and of different holding power, it is best to use the chip shot with the iron. Grasp the club rather firmly in the palm of the left hand and in the fingers of the right, the thumb of the right hand resting on the shaft. The ball should be played from about opposite the left heel, with the right foot well advanced, and the body facing well toward the hole.

The body, shoulders and head remain motionless, the shot being made only with the wrists and arms. Don't hurry the stroke. Pick the ball up cleanly and without taking any turf. After you have

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judged the amount of strength necessary to send the ball to the cup, pick out some spot on the green where you wish the ball to strike and run the remainder of the way, and then play to hit that spot. This is a shot that has won many a hole for me and not a little applause. I can usually count on getting very near to the hole, and having a chance to go down in one putt. As the ball usually takes a slight twist to the right in its run, it is well to aim just a shade to the left of the pin. The ball gets a nice little run from a mid-iron with a certain amount of back-spin that helps it to hold the line and find the bottom of the cup if it be given a chance.

Play to Hit the Spot

Also, the mid-iron is a very useful club for putting on a rain-soaked or rough green at times when the ordinary putter seems hopeless. The ball starts off with

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a jump on such shots, then rolls true to the line with back-spin that assists in holding the cup when it gets up.

It is desirable that the golfer practice each of these strokes with his mid-iron until he can depend upon it for satisfactory results under the various conditions. When he has mastered it, he will have added to his equipment a club with which solely he should be able to make a round of eighteen holes only a few strokes worse than his best score with a full set of clubs.

The Poo-Bah of Golf

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PLATE XXII—ADDRESS FOR JIGGER SHOT OF ABOUT 140 YARDS

The ball is opposite the center of the body and the right foot is well in advance of the left.

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PLATE XXIII—TOP OF SWING FOR JIGGER SHOT

club is not taken back as far as in a mid-iron shot. A three-quarters' swing is what is needed to produce the desired result.

CHAPTER XIII

THE USEFULNESS OF THE JIGGER

PARAPHRASING the scriptures without any intention of being in the least bit sacrilegious, What shall it profit a man if he make a two-hundred-and-twenty-yard drive and a two-hundred-yard brassie shot near the green and then foozle his approach twice and get a six? There is no profit in such a proposition, but loss of the hole in all probability. Poor approaching, going short of the hole or overplaying it—what a vast number of matches have been lost because of these faults.

What Shall It Profit a Man?

Clever play with the jigger would have turned disappointment into rejoicing, defeat into victory.

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Spare the Shot, Spoil the Stroke

The usefulness of this club has received only ordinary consideration from the great majority of golfers because it is a recent invention. Before the jigger was introduced I experienced great difficulty in playing shots of about 160 yards. The distance being too short for a mid-iron and too long for a mashie, I endeavored to negotiate the stroke by using a half-iron. The results were not satisfactory. Experimenting, I discovered that I was able to accomplish much better results in these betwixt and between shots with the jigger, so I discarded the spared iron shot and adopted the jigger for all short strokes. Spare the rod and spoil the child is no truer than spare the shot and spoil the stroke. As I have explained fully in another part of this book, I do not believe in spared shots with any club.

When I state that the weakest part of

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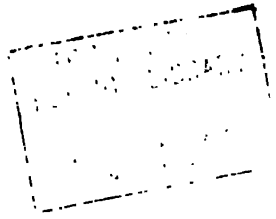
PLATE XXIV—INCORRECT TOP OF SWING WITH JIGGER

The club is carried too far back. It should be more vertical. Compare th



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my game at that time—the time I commenced experimenting—became the strongest through my action in adopting the jigger, my fondness for the club will be understood. I honestly attribute a great deal of my success to the use of the jigger.

Will Improve One's Game

I advise every golfer to use this club, because I firmly believe that it will improve his game. My jigger is 37 inches long and weighs 16 ounces. Like my other iron clubs, it has a stiff shaft. I have always taken it for granted that the driving-iron was the heaviest iron club in the set, but in weighing my clubs recently I found, to my surprise, that the jigger was of the same weight as the driving-iron. All iron clubs should be rather heavy in the head and have stiff shafts. In order to time the shot properly you must be able to feel the head of the club

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throughout the swing. The lighter the club, the more difficult it becomes to time the stroke, and poor timing means poor direction.

Poor Timing, Poor Direction

Also, accuracy is enhanced by the use of heavy irons because less effort is required to get distance. Furthermore, they help the player to take turf after the ball is struck, insuring a proper follow through. All first-class golfers agree that in playing iron shots the best results are obtained by taking turf, but differ when they try to explain why this is so. The reason is clear to my mind. If you attempt to pick the ball off the grass, the ball will be struck on the bottom instead of in the center of the face of the club. If the stroke is to receive all the power, it is necessary to strike the ball with the center of the club. This can only be accomplished by bringing the club down in

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PLATE XXV—FINISH OF A SHOT WITH THE JIGGER

In order to get a proper follow through turf must be taken after the ball is struck.

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back of the ball and going through into the turf.

Three-Quarters' Swing

In playing the jigger, the club is not brought back as far as the mid-iron. A three-quarters' swing is what is needed to produce the desired result. If you study the pictures of the mid-iron and jigger, you will note the difference in the back swing. The jigger is more of a push shot. That is to say, on account of the three-quarters' swing the play or bending of the wrists at the top of the swing is, to a great extent, eliminated, and the result is more of a push with the arms stiffer than in a mid-iron shot. When properly played this is a beautiful shot to watch. The ball, although flying low, will have a great deal of back spin and when it strikes the putting green will stop quickly.

Time and again spectators have told me that although they were certain my

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jigger shot would run clear across the green, much to their surprise the ball would stop dead within reasonable putting distance of the hole.

Be Sure to Be Up

Keep your head still and your eyes glued to the back center of the ball. The majority of approaches fall short, so be sure to be up, for the old golf motto is "Never up, never in!" When you have mastered the jigger shot you will gain confidence and play right up to the pin without fear.

One of the worst faults among good and indifferent players alike, is trying to figure out the right club to use for the second shot while they are walking from the tee to where the ball lies. I have lost many holes because I yielded to this weakness.

Although I know only too well that attempting to judge the distance while

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PLATE XXVI—ADDRESS FOR CHIP SHOT WITH MID-IRON OR JIGGE
The right thumb is pressed against the shaft, the feet are close together, the right

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on the way to the ball means disaster in most cases, nevertheless I find myself unconsciously trying to decide what club to use.

First Judgment Is Correct

Wait until you get to your ball, judge the distance carefully, and once having decided on the proper club do not hesitate or change to some other club. He who hesitates loses confidence, and lack of confidence usually results in a poor shot. I am convinced that in nine cases out of ten one's first impression is correct. Having promptly decided that you will use a jigger or a mid-iron or some other club, make the shot with the same commendable promptness. Take the proper stance, address the ball once or possibly twice, and then hit it! Fussing over the ball, changing one's stance several times, addressing the ball again and again, and again, until everyone around the tee is

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saying to himself, "For heaven's sake, man, hit it!" are faults that hurt one's game and popularity. By actual count I have seen a player address the ball twelve times before he hit it, and then, as the Irishman would say, "He didn't hit it at all, at all!"

A Second to the Address

Alex. Smith, the wonderfully clever professional, of whom I have already spoken, walks up to the ball, devotes not over a second to the address and then makes the stroke. If a master of the game see no advantage in fussing over and fiddling around the ball, the novice and even the somewhat experienced player can well afford to stop the practice. The jigger shot, like all the others, is not to be learned in a moment. If you are not getting along well with this club, devote a morning or part of an afternoon to practice in approaching.

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PLATE XXVIII—FINISH OF CHIP SHOT WITH JIGGER, SHOWING

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Approaching Is Vital

Generally speaking, good golf should consist of a drive, a second shot, an approach and a putt, consequently approaching well is a vital requisite. To go even farther, I consider approaching and putting the most important parts of the game.

Indifferent work in one or the other, or in both of these specialties, has lost many a match for golfers whose long game is excellent. Beyond question, it is a great satisfaction to be a long driver. The player who can step to the tee and send a straight ball down the fair green 200 or 250 yards, naturally feels a glow of pleasure in the achievement and wins the admiration of the gallery, but if he can neither approach nor putt he has little chance of success in match or medal play.

In playing chip shots I prefer to use

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the jigger, and I have already gone into detail concerning this in my article on the mid-iron. Consequently it will not be necessary for me to describe the procedure here.

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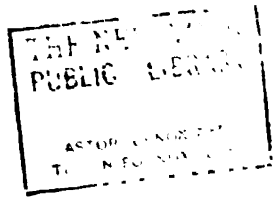

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PLATE XXIX—GRIP FOR THE MASHIE

Showing the thumb pressed against the shaft

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CHAPTER XIV

MASTERING THE DIFFICULT MASHIE

THE mashie is the most treacherous club in the bag, the most difficult to master, but once in subjection to the player's will and skill it is a club of great value. My observation leads me to believe that the majority of players have more trouble in learning to play the mashie properly than any other club. Weakness in mashie play is manifest not only in mediocre players, but also in our best amateur golfers in this country, with few exceptions.

Practice Is Needed

In my opinion this weakness is caused not only by lack of knowledge on the part of players as to the correct methods used in making mashie shots, but by lack of practice as well. If, instead of practicing

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driving and putting, which seems to be customary, they would utilize their spare time in playing twenty or thirty balls up to the hole from different distances, they would greatly improve their approaching and thus round out what otherwise is a creditable game. In my article on the jigger I have expressed the view that, with the possible exception of putting, approaching is the most important factor in golf, and I take the liberty of repeating the gist of the statement here because as implements used in approaching, the mashie and the jigger divide the honors about equally.

The Mashie and the Jigger

As mashie play is one of the most difficult departments of golf, it is apparent that more painstaking practice is required if one is to become proficient in the use of this club. When you have mastered the mashie you will have a de-

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cided advantage over your less skillful opponent. Time and again, in matches, I have seen holes that were lost apparently, either halved or won by a good approach shot. For example, a player has been bunkered by a poor shot from the tee and is compelled to sacrifice a stroke in getting out of trouble, but by laying his third shot dead to the hole gets a four. His opponent, having played his second shot to the green, is making mental calculations that by winning this hole he will be 2 up and 4 holes to play, a very comfortable lead.

A Jolt to Nerves

Suddenly the air castle is shattered by his rival's perfect approach, and his nerves are given a disquieting jolt. As a result he overplays the hole on his approach putt, misses his attempt to secure a 4, and instead of being 2 up, as he anticipated, finds the match all square.

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Losing a hole which you have mentally jotted down on the card as won, is the worst blow that can fall upon a nervous player, except the loss of the match itself. Never count a hole as won until the balls are in the cup.

"Rub o' the Green" Romancing

Good approaching is bound to get on the nerves of your opponent and affect his play. While he will be little concerned about your long driving, he will become nervous when he sees your ball lying five or six feet from the hole after your approach. Many a time under such circumstances he will take his eye off the ball or through some other fault miss his shot. I have met players who claimed that they never missed shots because of nervousness, but I have always put these claims in the same class as a "rub o' the green," which, you will recall, doesn't count for anything.

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I have played my share of nerve-racking matches against the cleverest amateurs on both sides of the Atlantic, and as a member of the gallery I have seen scores of similar clashes on the links between experts. As a result of this observation I can state without qualification that every man who plays golf has lost matches and missed shots on account of nervousness at some stage of his golfing career.

The Best Mashie

My mashie weighs 14 ounces, and is 36½ inches long. It has a narrow blade, or face, with a fair amount of loft, and the blade is fitted to a stiff shaft. As there are many different patterns of mashies, the player will have to discover by experiment which pattern suits his play best. Experience has convinced me that better results can be obtained by using a mashie with a narrow face. The

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clumsy, heavy, broad-bladed mashies are not of the proper construction for playing a delicate shot. It must be remembered that the mashie was not made for long shots and should only be used for distances of eighty yards, or less.

The Grip for the Mashie

I grip the club in the palm of my left hand and in the fingers of my right, with the right thumb down the shaft. Placing the right thumb in this position will improve your direction.

Stand close to the ball with the right foot well in advance of the left.

The ball should be about on a line with your left heel.

Keep a firm grip on the club throughout the swing.

In the back swing the club is taken straight up from the ball with the wrists and forearms as shown in one of the plates.

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PLATE XXXI—STANCE FOR THE MASHIE

The right foot is well in advance of the left and the ball is about opposite the left heel

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PLATE XXXII—ADDRESS FOR THE MASHIE SHOT, SIDE VIEW
Hold the club firmly with both hands with the right thumb down the shaft.

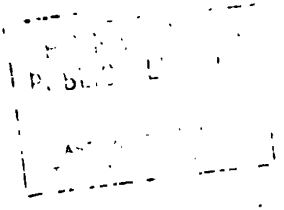

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PLATE XXXIII—TOP OF SWING WITH THE MASHIE

The club is taken up straight from the ball with the wrists and forearms. The

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Keep the right elbow close to the body throughout the swing.

The Body Kept Rigid

The shot should be played with the wrists and arms. The body should be kept rigid except for a slight turning of the shoulders in the back swing.

The right leg should remain rigid throughout the swing, and the left leg should bend slightly in the back swing.

Keep the heels on the ground throughout the swing and hold the head absolutely still.

Keep the eye a shade under, instead of on, the back center of the ball. The distance is regulated by the length of the back swing.

A common fault among golfers in playing mashie shots is swinging the club back too far. This results in poor timing and a poor follow through, because, on account of the length of the back swing,

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the player will check the club when it comes in contact with the ball.

The Follow Through

The follow through is very important, and in order to get it the player must take turf after hitting the ball. Many players make the mistake of trying to assist the ball to rise, instead of letting the lofted face of the mashie accomplish the desired result. The important things to remember when playing the mashie are to keep the body and head still, and to follow through well and take turf.

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PLATE XXXIV—FINISH OF SWING WITH THE MASHIE

Showing how the wrists are turned up as the ball is struck and turf taken.

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CHAPTER XV

WHEN AND HOW TO PLAY THE MASHIE NIBLICK

THE average player never thinks of using a mashie niblick unless his ball is in a bunker. This club was constructed not only for getting out of trouble but also for shots through the green. Very often you are called upon to pitch a short approach shot that will stop dead when it strikes the ground on account of a sand trap at the edge of the green directly between your ball and the hole.

Getting Back Spin

The mashie niblick, having a great deal of weight in the heel and a broad, well-laid back face, is best suited for shots of this character. When the shot is played properly it is surprising how

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quickly the ball will stop after striking the green. In playing short pitch shots from long grass the mashie niblick can also be used to great advantage. Causing a ball to drop dead is a very difficult shot to play, but not difficult to explain. Have you ever noticed the peculiar action of a billiard ball that has been struck on its back center by a hand brought straight down toward the table? It will run along the table a short distance, then the back spin imparted by the downward blow of the hand will exert itself and the ball will stop and then come back to the hand.

When the Ball Drops Dead

To produce the same effect in golf so that the ball will drop dead because of back spin, the face of the club must strike the ball in the same manner that the hand strikes the billiard ball. One day I was playing a four ball match with Frederick

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PLATE XXXV—FINISH OF MASHIE SHOT, FRONT VIEW

Herreshoff and two others at Garden City. After driving from the third tee, I was compelled to pitch my second shot over a sand trap directly between me and the hole. It was a hard shot, because the flag had been placed near the sand trap and because of a following wind and a keen green.

The Cut in the Ball

The ball, after striking the green, only ran about three feet and stopped two feet short of the hole. I holed out and then discovered that the ball had a deep cut in its side, making it unfit for further play. This cut was caused by the face of the club when it was brought down straight against the back center of the ball.

In addressing the ball the right foot should be well in advance of the left, with the ball about opposite the left heel. The club should be taken straight back from

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the ball with the wrists. The face of the club should not be turned away from the ball as in the other iron shots, and the swing should be out from rather than around the body. Make the stroke with your wrists and arms. The body should not enter into the shot. In fact, it is most important that the body and head remain still. Another important thing to remember in playing this shot is to keep your eye on the ball. If you look up a fraction of a second too soon you will either half-top the ball or it will shoot off at right angles. The elbows should be kept in toward the body. Remember to hit the ball first and then take turf. After the club strikes the ball be sure to turn the wrists up.

With Wrists and Arms

When the head moves the eye is taken off the ball, and this is the cause of most of the shots that are missed in the short

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PLATE XXXVI—TOP OF SWING WITH THE NIBLICK

he club is taken up straight from the ball with the wrists. Keep the eye fixed upo

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PLATE XXXVII—BACK VIEW OF TOP OF SWING WITH THE NIBLIC

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game. The first warning the beginner receives is, "Keep your eye on the ball!" but *keeping your mind on the ball* expresses it better. When I am playing in matches I remember the importance of this warning, and through my mind, again and again, goes the phrase:

"Keep your eye on the ball!"

Four Years of Practice

Naturally, the beginner will find great difficulty in learning how to play this shot well, but he can do so if he be willing to work. I practiced this particular shot for two or three hours at a stretch about three times a week, for four years. This will give the reader some idea of the amount of practice necessary to become expert in playing the different golf shots. I know a number of very good golfers who have never been able to learn how to play this back spin approach. I recall

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a match at Garden City in which I was one down and one to play. The last hole is about 160 yards, and the tee shot must be played across a pond. The green is guarded by a large bunker back of the hole and there are traps to the right and left. There happened to be a strong following wind which made it difficult to hold the green. I pitched a cut shot with the mashie and the ball ran only a few feet after striking the green, but my opponent, although his ball struck just over the pond some twenty feet short of the green proper, ran clear past the hole into the bunker at the rear. He lost the hole and the match because he was unable to play the shot with proper back spin.

A Cut Shot with the Mashie

True, the match was all square at this point, but the same shot gave me the victory on the nineteenth hole. In playing this hole I hooked my drive and my ball

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PLATE XXXVIII—FINISH OF MASHIE NIBLICK SHOT OUT OF BUNKE
This remarkable picture shows the ball in flight. The wrists are turned up after th

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landed in some weeds twenty yards from an ice-house, near the green, so that the house was directly in line between me and the hole. To reach the hole it was necessary to play the ball over the building.

Over the Ice House

In this emergency I chose a mashie niblick, struck almost straight down behind the ball, turned the wrists upward quickly as the club went under it, and it rose sharply, cleared the ice-house and dropped dead to the hole. Owing to the back spin imparted to the shot the ball rolled but a few feet after it struck the green. These incidents are related with but one idea in mind, and that is to impress upon the reader the remarkable value of the mashie niblick when it is played properly.

Although the wrists are allowed great freedom, the shot should be made very decisively. In playing short pitch shots

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From the Long Grass

from the long grass, the golfer will find it necessary to judge by the eye whether it is better to use the mashie or mashie niblick. No set rule can be laid down, but when the ball is fairly deep in the grass and the grass is heavy, it is advisable to use the mashie niblick.

Take the club up straight and keep the eye on some spot directly behind the ball. When playing short approach shots near the green, pick out some spot in line with the hole and plan to pitch the ball to that spot, relying upon the roll to carry the ball to or near the cup.

It often happens that the ball will be found lying in long grass a foot or two high. In playing this shot, remember to take the club up straight from the ball and to quickly turn the wrists upward after the ball is struck. If you attempt to take the club back from the ball along

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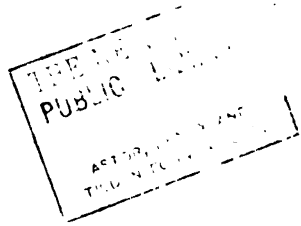

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PLATE XXXIX—FINISH OF ANOTHER MASHIE NIBLICK SHOT. BALL IN THE AIR

the ground, the long grass will wind around the shaft and rob the stroke of its power. It will also turn the toe of your club in towards the ball, causing a pull, and though you may get the shot away, the ball will remain in the long grass. This shot from the long grass is one of the most difficult, "in the bag," as the expression goes, but it may be mastered if the player will devote considerable time to the problem.

A Very Difficult Stroke

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CHAPTER XVI

PUTTING A TEST OF NERVE

ALTHOUGH putting appears to be the simplest thing in golf to the beginner, after a little experience he will find out that it is not only the most important but also the most difficult part of the game. As the address, or aim, must be absolutely correct as well as the estimate of the distance and the amount of power needed for the stroke, the putt demands a greater degree of skill than any other shot.

Confidence Necessary

Furthermore, in order to be a good, consistent putter the player *must* have confidence. Good putting is half confidence. The only way to secure confidence is by practice. There is no reason

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PLATE XL—PUTTING GRIP, FRONT VIEW

Showing the little finger of the right hand interlocked with the index finger of the left and the thumbs down the shaft.

why every golfer should not be a good putter, provided he gives the correct amount of study and practice to this department of the game. Although over half a million people are playing golf in America to-day, there are comparatively few really good putters. The reason for this is lack of confidence.

Very Few Good Putters

It is on the putting greens that most of the matches are lost and won. It is on the putting green that you have your last chance of winning the match, or of making up for the shot you missed through the green, and many a hard-fought contest has been decided by a single clever putt. The greatest test of a golfer's nerve in a close match is on the putting green, and there are situations in which the strain calls for every bit of steadiness and self-control the golfer possesses. For instance, after a long and gruelling match

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in which it has been nip and tuck all the way, the last green is reached and the player's opponent has holed out for a 4. The player has reached the green in 3 and is now confronted with a four, or five-foot putt upon which the fate of the match depends. He cannot win—but he can lose! To halve the match and save himself from defeat he *must* hole that putt. He grits his teeth, grips his club firmly, addresses the ball and then——? Well, if he have a proper amount of confidence in his ability to make the putt he will probably hole out and halve the match.

How to Putt Well

Learn how to putt well, so that you will possess confidence. Devote as much of your spare time as possible to this part of the game. A golfer has the nightmare when he dreams he is taking three putts on every green. Don't have golfer's

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PLATE XLI—PUTTING GRIP, SHOWING INTERLOCKED FINGERS

Hands raised to show how the little finger of the right hand and the index finger of the left hand are locked together.

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nightmare! Practice putting for an hour at a time. As there are many different kinds of putters, the beginner will have to find out from experience which putter suits his game best. Try out the various makes, select the one you have the most confidence in and by all means stick to that club. Stand with your feet close together, the right foot being well in advance of the left. The ball should be about opposite the left heel. In selecting a putter get a club with an upright lie because in order to get a good line on the hole it is necessary to stand well over the ball.

Stand Well Over the Ball

After you have taken your stance and placed your putter at right angles to the hole, back of the ball, allow your eye to pass over an imaginary line from the ball to the hole. When you have judged the distance, or the amount of strength re-

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quired to send the ball the distance between you and the hole, allow your eye to pass back along this imaginary line from the hole to the ball. Take plenty of time to make up your mind about the shot, but once having arrived at a definite decision, do not wait any longer but putt the ball. The longer you wait and fuss over the putt, the less chance you have of holing the ball. If there is any noise or movement near by, wait until it ceases, because the slightest distraction at the instant you hit the ball is apt to cause disaster.

A Putting Story

This reminds me of a laughable incident that occurred at Apawamis several years ago. "Old Sport" Lowery was out on the links with a somewhat inexperienced Italian caddie. When they reached a certain green the Italian took the red marking flag from the hole, and Lowery

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PLATE XLII—STANCE FOR PUTTING

Stand close to the ball and well over it. Interlock the index finger of the left hand with the little finger of the

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PLATE XLIII—FINISH OF PUTT, BALL ENTERING THE HOLE

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bent over to putt. As he did so the caddie carelessly began to wave the red flag back and forth. Lowery caught the movement out of the corner of his eye and paused. The red flag at once became motionless. Again Lowery bent over to putt and again the red flag waved. Once more Lowery paused and the red flag ceased waving. Finally, after this performance had been repeated three or four times, Lowery straightened up and growled to the Italian:

"When in h—— is this blast going off, anyway?"

My Grip for the Putt

There is a difference of opinion as to the best manner of gripping the putter, and I shall not discuss each particular grip, but shall explain the grip I use myself. Years of experience and practice have convinced me that this grip suits my game best. I grip the club with the fin-

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gers of both hands, and both thumbs are down the shaft. Also, I interlock the little finger of my right hand with the index finger of my left hand. This interlocking helps the hands to work in unison, which is very important. As putting is a delicate stroke, you must grip the club firmly with the fingers and not the hands. Gripping with the fingers enables you to feel the club and improves your direction and accuracy.

Hands, Wrists and Arms

It is a well-known fact that the ball will keep a better line if the club be held firmly, and will be less likely to be deflected by irregularities in the putting green. The hands, wrists and arms are the only parts of the body that enter into the putting stroke. In long, or approach putts, the shoulders enter the stroke slightly. The body should be kept absolutely immovable. In short, two of the

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PLATE XLIV—ADDRESS FOR LOFTING A STYMIE WITH THE MASHIE

The club should be gripped by the fingers of both hands with the right thumb pressed against the shaft.

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most important things to remember are to keep the head and body still.

Addressing the Ball

In addressing the ball do not allow the club to rest with its full weight on the ground back of the ball, but let it touch the ground lightly. The club should be taken back straight from the ball along the ground with the wrists and arms. Keep your left eye on the back center of the ball and do not lift your head until you see the club strike that place. If you take your eye off the ball a fraction of a second too soon you will unconsciously check the stroke and the ball will go to the right of the hole.

Remember that the wrists and arms should work in unison. The true putting stroke is best described as a pendulum movement in which neither the wrists nor arms predominate. Do not tap the ball, but take the club back in

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the manner I have already outlined and follow through. I know a number of very good putters who merely tap the ball, but if you wish to be consistent you will have to adopt the pendulum swing and follow through. Some players advise the use of two putters, one for approach putts and one for short putts. This, I think, is a great mistake. Putting is difficult enough without changing your clubs, becoming confused and worrying over and wasting time in getting the ball into the hole.

"A Drive and a Putt"

The difficulties of putting always remind me of the old story about the somewhat pompous and egotistical player who, upon reaching a certain tee, said to the caddie:

"Boy, how long is this hole?"

"Four hundred yards, sir."

"Ah, a drive and a putt!"

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PLATE XLV—LOFTING A STYMIE

The ball is shown in the air on its way towards the hole. Note the ball's shadow o the green.

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PLATE XLVI—LOFTING A STYMIE

ball in the foreground has been lofted over the other ball and is entering t

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

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With this contemptuous remark, the player teed up, gave a mighty swing and topped the ball, which rolled about four feet off the tee.

Promptly offering the proper club, the caddie said, nonchalantly, "Now for a h—— of a putt!"

My Most Prized Club

If you should lose all confidence in your putting, a change of stance or putters will sometimes be of great assistance. I first used a putting cleek, but, as I have stated in a previous chapter, I now use the Schenectady putter, the shaft of which rises from near the center of the head. This club is barred in Great Britain, but may be used in the United States. The putter I use has been my property for eight years and is my most prized club. When I am playing for a championship I feel like taking it to bed with me at night for fear it may be lost

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or stolen. I have used it in every match since the day I first had its aid in defeating Travis at Nassau, in 1904. I believe the center-shafted putter is built on the right principle and that it will improve one's game because it has a tendency to make one follow through.

Lofting a Stymie

In match play you will occasionally find your opponent's ball directly in line between your ball and the hole, that is, he has laid you a stymie. If it be impossible for you to curve your ball around your opponent's by aiming a shade to the left, standing with the ball well in front, the club turned to the right, and drawing the club in and across the ball at the moment of impact, causing it to slice, you will be compelled to loft your ball over the other ball with a mashie. In this shot it is very necessary that you keep your eye on the ball. Play off the left foot with

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the right foot well advanced. The shot should be made with the wrists alone. This is a risky shot, and if you have two for a half, it is better to take the half than the risk.

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CHAPTER XVII

BUNKER SHOTS AND HOW TO PLAY THEM

IN years gone by one of the humorous as well as tragic incidents of life was described by the phrase, "Buncoed, b'gosh!" Since golf achieved its wonderful popularity on this side of the Atlantic, the revised phrase is "Bunkered, b'gosh!" Golf has its exasperations as well as its joys, and chief among the former is the long drive, or the long, brassie shot, that slices or pulls a bit, landing the ball in a sand pit at the base of a high bunker.

Woes of the Bunkered

The woes of the unfortunate bunkered have been described in song and story, cartoon and jest, on both sides of the At-

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lantic. A city near New York not only has a golf club but it narrowly escaped being benefited by the extension of the New York City subway, which led a local poet to write thus about one of the golf club's novices:

> When Giffen in the bunker gets,
> He wastes no time on vain regrets,
> He digs that bunker to the core,
> And brings the subway to our door.

Medal-Play Score Spoiled

When a player is bunkered, it is very funny—for the other fellow. Getting into the bunker is the easiest thing in the world; getting out is another story. Many a promising medal-play score has been ruined by one bad play that landed the ball in a bunker, and by half a dozen strokes wasted in an eventually successful effort to get out on the fair green.

Beyond doubt most players devote more attention to the problem of keeping

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out of bunkers than they do to learning how to get out when fickle fortune gets them in. It is really surprising how little thought is given to this important phase of golf. Think of the countless number of strokes thrown away by golfers in trying to get out of bunkers, and yet how seldom one sees anyone practicing these shots and endeavoring to improve this department of the game so that in the future the player will be reasonably certain of getting out of trouble with the loss of only one stroke.

Scylla and Charybdis

It is a common experience to see players busily engaged in practice putting, approaching or driving, but rarely do you see them in a bunker playing ball after ball in an effort to learn just how to escape from the Scylla and Charybdis of golf with a single, well-directed stroke. I found it necessary to practice these

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bunker shots by playing ten or twenty balls for hours at a time out of different lies, and the players who read this book will be compelled to go through the same performance if they wish to acquire the secret. Frankly confessing that it is no easy matter to describe the correct modus operandi, I shall content myself with doing my best. The niblick is the most valuable club for bunker shots. Often it happens that the ball will be lying well in a bunker, allowing the use of a mashie, but the niblick is the proper club to use in most cases.

Disregard Distance

Select a niblick that is well laid back, weighing not less than one pound. The shaft should be stiff and not of whippy character. The most important thing to keep in mind, is to be sure and get the ball out of the bunker in one stroke. That is to say, disregard distance; take no

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chances; get the ball out. Don't make the mistake of trying to get distance by using a mid-iron or jigger instead of a niblick. In most bunker shots the ball must rise quickly, and it is easier to get the ball up with the niblick on account of its lofted face. Trying for additional distance by using a club with a straight face is an all too common fault among players.

Not Worth the Risk

When the ball is lying well it is a great temptation to use a mid-iron, or even a cleek, but a moment's thought will show that the possible (not probable) advantage to be gained is not worth the risk. In match play a man is often justified in taking a chance, because failure can only mean the loss of the hole, but in medal play, when you are competing against the whole field, it is better to disregard everything except the single idea of get-

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ting the ball out with the loss of one stroke.

The shot should be made as if you intended driving the head of the club straight down into the sand without following through toward the hole. The club should be taken up straight from the ball with the wrists, and brought down straight about one inch in back of it. Keep the eye on the sand an inch behind the ball and aim for this spot. It is not necessary for the face of the club to come in contact with the ball itself; make no attempt to follow through, but let the club stop because of its own exhausted momentum after it has gone well down into the sand beneath the ball.

Aim Behind the Ball

Keeping the head still and the eye fixed on a spot directly back of the ball are two of the principal things to remember. As most bunkers have a high face the

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ball must rise quickly, but this desired result will not happen if the club strike the sand too close to the ball. On the other hand, if too much sand be taken the stroke will be robbed of all of its power, and in either case the stroke will be a failure. Gauging the shot to a nicety is by no means an easily acquired accomplishment, and this is the reason why playing out of bunkers is so difficult. Also, it is hard to judge the strength or thickness of the sand—a very important matter—because you are not allowed to touch the sand with your club. However, you can plant your feet firmly in the sand when addressing the ball, and after a little experience you will be able to estimate the strength of the sand by means of a pair of well-trained feet.

A Pair of Well-Trained Feet

Often it happens that the ball will be lying well in a sand trap just off the edge

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A Delicate Wrist Shot

of the putting green and you can play it dead to the hole by a wrist shot without taking any, or but very little, sand, relying on the lofted face of the niblick to give the ball the necessary rise without digging into the sand back of the ball. It is a very delicate and treacherous shot because the wrists must be turned up quickly just as the ball is struck. Often, this shot will save the hole, but, as I said at the beginning, the important thing to remember is to be sure to get the ball out in one stroke.

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CHAPTER XVIII

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF GOLF

GOLF is a game of the head as well as a game of the hands. The golfer who does not use his head will never achieve any great proficiency in the sport. A really clever player takes note of everything about him that may have an influence on the result of his strokes and does his best to use it for his benefit. When the wind is dead against him on the tee, and the bunker ahead is likely to trap his shot because of the adverse wind, he plays short if there seem small chance of carrying the bunker because but little distance will be sacrificed, and because a trapped shot is certain to cost him one stroke and possibly

Takes Note of Everything

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two or three. In match play this misfortune would cost him the hole and in medal play it might cause him to lose the day's competition. As every golfer knows, the low score in a medal play event is often but one stroke better than the score of the second man.

Before You Play

The old adage, "Look before you leap," when applied to the royal and ancient game of golf, should read, "Think before you play." There is no virtue, no success in walking up to the ball and hitting it blindly. Study the lay of the land ahead, remember the condition of the ground, plan to avoid the traps along one side of the course, or the other, make allowance for the wind, canvass all these things quickly and then make your shot. I have seen noted experts devote over a minute to the study of a putt before the putt was made. When they were badly

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bunkered, I have seen them play back so that the second shot would safely clear the obstruction and give them good distance. I have seen them slice or hook a ball deliberately so that it would pass round a tree in the line of play and roll to the putting green. I have seen so much back spin applied to a mashie shot that when the ball struck the putting green it actually rolled toward the man who played it.

Thought Backed by Skill

A player must be fairly expert to do some of these things, and in such instances mere thought will be of little value unless it be backed by skill, but from the first drive to the last putt the player should make good use of his reasoning powers. Suppose, for example, that the drive is along the edge of the links and the wind is apt to carry a straight or hooked ball out of bounds to

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the left. How easy it is for the player to take this fact into consideration and drive a little further to the right than usual, or slice the ball a trifle to counteract the force of the wind. Suppose that the player knows he cannot reach the green in one shot and has a bad brassie lie. The thoughtless player will play the brassie and, doubtless, get a poor shot and poor distance. The player who thinks will play the safer mid-iron, get good distance and reach the green on his next shot, lying 3 as against the brassie player's 4. Often, in medal play, have I seen golfers refuse to take advantage of the rule which permits them to lift and tee up the ball with a loss of two strokes only to lose stroke after stroke in unsuccessful attempts to get out of trouble and finally, in disgust, pick up the ball, thereby disqualifying themselves. A mo-

Will Play the Safer Mid-Iron

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ment's thought would have convinced them that the safe and wise thing to do was to lose two strokes rather than risk such a disaster.

Changing Conditions

Often during a thirty-six hole match, the condition of the ground undergoes a remarkable change and the player should note this and make allowance for it. For example, owing to a heavy rain overnight the links are soft and slow and the ball gets only a fair amount of roll in the morning. The sun is hot and by 1:30 P. M., when the afternoon round is to start, the ground has become well dried out and the ball gets a long roll, consequently much less power is needed to duplicate the approach shots of the morning. The player must remember this from the moment he makes his first tee shot in the afternoon round, or a few strokes or a few holes will be lost before

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he wakes up and adjusts his play to the new condition of the links.

Match Play Head Work

Beyond a doubt, there is greater opportunity for head work in match play than in medal play. In the latter the golfer is playing against the entire field, and he is doing his best to turn in the lowest possible score—so many strokes for the entire eighteen holes. There is no direct competition. He and his companion are not playing against each other except in a general sense, and each man's interest in the other largely consists in his duty to see that the other plays the game according to the rules governing medal play contests, counting every stroke, holing out each putt, etc., etc. If he fail to do this he is a traitor to every other player in the competition and is himself disqualified, as a matter of honor, no matter whether or not the com-

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mittee learns of his failure. In match play the contest is man against man.

It Is Man against Man

The two players go out together, and each hole is a separate battle in itself. Smith wins the first hole and is 1 up. Jones makes a desperate rally and captures the second hole, and the match is all square. They tie the third hole. All square. Smith wins the fourth and fifth holes and is 2 up, and thus, hole after hole, the golf battle rages. Such matches often go 18 holes, 36 holes, yes, even 50 holes before one contestant or the other wins.

In a hand-to-hand struggle of this character the golfer who keeps perfectly cool, holds his temper no matter what happens, plays with thoughtful deliberation and carefully studies his opponent, will have a decided advantage over an adversary who gets nervous, loses his

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temper because of bad luck or a bad shot, plays hastily and devotes but little thought to his shots and to the temperament of the man he is playing. While it is highly improper and against the etiquette of golf to say or do any unsportsmanlike thing that will annoy or irritate your opponent, there are legitimate acts that may prove useful in breaking down his nerve and making him "go up in the air," to use the expressive metaphor of the streets. Suppose, for example, that your opponent particularly prides himself concerning the great distance he secures in driving, and that you know he confidently expects to outdrive you from start to finish during the match. If you have specialized a bit in the psychology of golf you will guess shrewdly that if you equal or surpass his drives from the first, second and third tees his confidence

Jolt His Confidence

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will receive a severe jolt, worry will set in and he will at once commence pressing every tee shot beyond the limits of prudence. In the game of golf confidence is a great helper. Let a player lose it and he is marked for slaughter.

On the other hand, an attack of overconfidence is apt to be fully as disastrous. Overconfidence and carelessness are teammates. If you can do so, break down your opponent's nerve by outdriving him and by setting a heart-breaking pace from the first tee, but simply because you have him a few holes down do not hold him too cheap and ease up in your efforts.

When the Ball Rolls for You

As every experienced golfer knows, the little ball is tricky and eccentric. It will "roll for you" hole after hole as if it were bewitched in your favor. You will drive out of bounds and the ball will hit a tree or a rock and come back into

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bounds again. Your approach shot will strike the green three feet off the line to the hole, yet the ball will deliberately turn to the right or left, make straight for the cup as if pulled by an invisible string and drop in as if there were no other place for it to go. Then, after "rolling for you" for a time it will "roll against you" with the perversity of the evil one. You will top your drive, foozle your approach and miss your two-foot putt, and before you quite realize it your opponent will have squared the match and be leading you by a hole or two. Consequently, it behooves you to keep on playing golf with all the skill at your command until your man is actually beaten. Several years ago a well-known player was 7 up and 7 to play, "dormie 7," in golf phraseology. All he needed to win was to tie one hole and he evidently

Seven Up But Lost

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thought the match was as good as ended. Then, thoughtlessly, he committed a grave breach of golf etiquette by calling out to a friend, "Who do I play in the next round?" Naturally, this incensed his "dormie 7" opponent who immediately began playing with all the cleverness and determination he could possibly summon and actually succeeded in winning eight holes in succession—and the match!

Lost Nerve, Lost Match

Moral: Never prematurely announce the golf funeral of your opponent! On another occasion I saw an overconfident player who rejoiced because his match was "dormie 6" in his favor, lose seven holes straight. He became careless, lost a few holes, then lost his nerve—and the match!

Another important thing the real golf psychologist remembers is to refrain

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from playing a hazardous shot when he is a stroke or two ahead of his opponent through the green and there is no necessity for doing so. For example, far ahead is a brook directly in front of the green. The distance is so great there is small chance that either he or his opponent can carry the brook and reach the green. Being one or two strokes ahead, he plays short of the brook so that he will be sure to reach the green in the next shot. On the other hand, his opponent, being in a fair way to lose the hole, hazards the long and difficult shot because an unusual carry or a lucky bound may send his ball to the green and possibly give him a tie. Owing to the situation, what is folly for one is wisdom for the other.

Folly and Wisdom

The golfer who wishes to secure health and happiness from the sport should be a philosopher. He should strive to play

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his best, but if that be none too good, he should not permit the fact to worry, irritate or anger him. One day I saw a golfer who became so angry because he was playing poorly that he took his clubs, one after another, from his bag and broke them across his knee. Swearing that he would never play again, he hurried back to the club house. Two weeks later he was back on the links with a new bagful of clubs.

Cultivate Self-Control

A man who gets into a rage, swears and breaks his clubs, and petulantly drives the inoffensive ball off into the woods should either reform or give up the game. He is reaping no benefit mentally, morally or physically. Let him go beat carpets! No true lover of golf will mourn his loss!

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CHAPTER XIX

WHY THE BUSINESS MAN SHOULD PLAY GOLF

ONE does not need to be in the championship division to enjoy golf. He can play the game the very first time he handles driver, mid-iron and putter and ofttimes, alas! play it much better than he can the third or even the tenth time. Furthermore, he can always find someone in his class, some worthy opponent, no matter whether he can play eighteen holes in 100 strokes or 80. Even when his partner is a better player there is always the handicap to equalize matters and make the battle over the links a hard-fought one.

Always Someone in His Class

American business men are hard workers. Many of them toil all day indoors

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and get no exercise except their daily walk or occasional sprint for a train. They need fresh air, relaxation, something that will give them exercise and take their minds off business for a few hours. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and they do not play enough. They get too thin or too fat, they worry about business until they cannot sleep nights, and life becomes one long hard grind. When they were boys and young men they played baseball, but as they grow older they find that baseball is too strenuous for them; that a game or two a year between the Fat Men and the Slims or the Bunny Hugs and the Grizzly Bears is more apt to be a bone breaker, than a body builder. Not long ago a friend, aged 49, played one game of baseball that netted him $250. In sending him a check the accident in-

Golf and Baseball

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surance company's broker wrote: "For heaven's sake switch to golf!"

Sliding to second base on the chin, one eyebrow and a brittle elbow at 49 doubtless is now classed as "extra hazardous" by that company.

Tennis Too Strenuous

Baseball, splendid game as it unquestionably is, is too strenuous for the average business man unless he is quite young. The same statement applies to football. Tennis is fine sport, too, but a two-hour match under a broiling sun is hard work for a man of 45 unless he is in the pink of condition. It takes more out of a man than it puts into him. My home golf club had a dozen good tennis players and four courts a few years ago. Every tennis player who is old enough to be a business man is now playing golf and the courts are used by the boys and girls. Said one of the tennis men: "Tennis is

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a great game, but I am as fond of golf and golf benefits me more because it gives me the exercise I need without wearing me down."

Once a Fad but Now a Necessity

In America golf was taken up as a fad and has become a necessity. Society made a fad of it because it was "so English, you know," and for a time a golfer was not considered to be the real thing unless he wore a red coat with bright gilt buttons, knee breeches and thick golf stockings that turned over just so at the top and made even a lean calf look fairly plump.

Years ago society lost interest in golf, a red coat on the links is now about as rare as a midwinter robin, knickerbockers have in great measure given way to trousers, but the grand old sport has steadily and rapidly grown in popularity each year and to-day its devotees are num-

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bered by hundreds of thousands and its links are valued at millions of dollars.

A Reason For Golf

Why? Because there was a logical reason for the perpetuation of the game. The business man took it up because every week it gave him the sort of brawn and stamina-building exercise he needed, not too violent, but just strenuous enough; because it interested him and called him to the links regularly with a call that would not be denied; because it increased his strength, cleared the cobwebs from his brain, made him forget his worries and prolonged his life. To this the doubting Thomas makes reply as follows:

"But why should a business man who needs exercise in the open air play golf? Why doesn't he go out and take a ten-mile walk instead? It would do him as much good."

Possibly it would, but experience in-

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dicates that while he may take the walk one day, or two days, or three days, he will not stick to it for the simple reason that it is a monotonous proceeding and does not interest him enough. Golf is a far different proposition. It gives him all the walking he needs, for twice around the links will carry him six or seven miles, and as he walks he battles constantly with a tantalizing little ball, striking it gently to produce one sort of shot, putting more power into the stroke to secure another result, hitting it with every ounce of strength in his body to get a good mid-iron shot, a long brassie approach or a far-reaching drive. Nearly every muscle in his body from his toes to his neck is brought into play. Ankles, calves, thighs, waist, back, arms, hands and shoulders all have their work cut out for them and there can be no shirking.

He Battles with the Little Ball

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How the heart beats and how the lungs expand with deep breathing as the golfer toils up a steep hill, reaches for his brassie and puts all his brawn and brain—for headwork a-plenty is needed—into a mighty shot destined to reach the putting green 200 yards distant or maddeningly roll along the turf and stop seven feet from where he stands!

The Lure of Golf

Golf interests him, tantalizes him, lures, rewards, disappoints, delights, exasperates him. There are so many things he can do wrong and he is so determined that he can and will do them right.

His opponent, too, has boasted of his prowess as a golfer, and right there and then he is going to have it "put all over him" seven up and six to play or Molly Stark will be a golf widow before night!

In every up-to-date golf club some interesting contest is scheduled for each

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His First Golf Cup

Saturday and holiday, and what joy the golfer feels as he proudly bears home his first cup, what a hero he is to his family and friends even when he modestly explains that he had thirty handicap and really should have had but twenty-five. It makes no difference to them. How could he *possibly* win a cup if he were not a crackerjack golfer?

Walking is good exercise, but golf is walking plus so many other pleasing and alluring features that there is no fair comparison between them. A millionaire who owns a six cylinder automobile will not walk three blocks to the railroad station without grumbling when the machine is temporarily "off its game," but he will joyously tote a heavy golf bag seven miles in a thirty-six hole golf match for an eleven dollar silver mug and heave a sigh of regret because the sun has gone

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down and it's too dark to play a few extra holes.

A Health Builder

The younger a business man is the more success he will have in learning to play a fair game of golf, a game that will give him a place among the first or second class players of his home club. There is a well known tradition that no man who takes up the game after he has passed thirty-five can ever achieve greatness as a golfer, but at least one noted American amateur golfer has made himself an exception to the rule. However, in golf as in other sports, the best time to learn is in youth, but if one cannot take up the game at nine and win the amateur championship at twenty as I did, he can still get plenty of pleasure and profit out of it even if he swing a club for the first time at the age of forty, fifty, or even sixty. I know a man who at fifty-

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five was making a great fortune and losing his health. His family physician said, "Drink a little whisky every day." A noted specialist said, "Don't drink a drop of whisky, play golf." He took the specialist's advice. At first he could not play half way round the links, nine holes, without being done up physically, but his health began to improve, his strength and powers of endurance increased and now he can play all day, covering thirty-six holes, without being tired out. Furthermore, with barely two years of practice he can more than hold his own against quite a number of men who are ten years younger in years and as many years older in golf.

Now He Can Play All Day

There is another excellent reason why the business man should play golf, especially if he has political ambition. Both William Howard Taft and Woodrow

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BUSINESS MAN AND GOLF

Wilson trained for the presidency on the golf links and each won the President's cup!

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CHAPTER XX

HOLES IN ONE AND OTHER REMARKABLE SHOTS

ONE of the ambitions of every golfer is to make a hole in one shot. The feat, which is a combination of skill and luck, is not uncommon, yet it always causes a mild sensation whenever it is performed. The ball, driven from the tee, lands near or on the edge of the green, rolls toward the hole as if drawn by a magnet and drops in. A. C. Ladd of the Henley-on-Thames Golf Club is credited with having holed out in one shot on a 330-yard hole. One explanation of this phenomenal shot is that the ball was driven down hill and rolled a great distance after it struck the turf.

Holed Out at 330 Yards

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It is extremely probable that Mr. Ladd could try to duplicate the shot on that particular hole for the remainder of his lifetime without succeeding.

Three Holes In One

I have met hundreds of golfers who never saw a hole made in a single shot, but I have had the good luck to place three of such holes to my credit. The first one was at the old Oyster Bay Golf Club. I drove across a pond a distance of 150 yards to the third green. The shot was only a mashie pitch for an adult player, but I was only fourteen years of age and used a mid-iron. Imagine my delight when, upon reaching the green, I found the ball in the hole!

Four years later I was playing in a four ball match at the Deal Golf Club and used a driving iron on the sixth tee. The ball was at least three feet off the line of the flag, but when it struck the

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green 175 yards distant, it kicked in toward the cup. We saw it roll on the putting green but did not suspect where it was until one of the caddies found it in the hole.

"You're a Robber!"

Shortly before I won the championship at Wheaton in 1912, Marshall Whitlatch and I were playing Oswald Kirkby, New Jersey State champion, and Robert C. Watson, who is now president of the United States Golf Association. The match was over the excellent nine hole course of the Mahopac Golf Club. The first hole is about 120 yards from the tee and the green is out of sight. The gallery had gone ahead and members of it called back stating where Kirkby's, Watson's and Whitlatch's balls landed. Then I hit mine.

"It's on the green!" cried the gallery.

Silence for a few seconds.

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"It's dead to the hole!"

Another second's silence.

"It's in! ! !"

"Travers," said Watson, "you're a robber!"

One day I was practicing putting on the green devoted to that purpose at the Montclair Golf Club. Near by was the regular eighteenth green. "Tom" Anderson, the club professional, took half a dozen balls, went back about two hundred yards to a point from which he could not see the green and practiced brassie shots. Soon he came into the club house and announced with natural pride that out of six brassie shots he had holed one in one shot, two in two shots and three in three shots. After "Tom" had fittingly bought liquid refreshment for the crowd, it was gently broken to him that a mischievous waiter had sneaked upon the

Anderson's Brassie Shots

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putting green, placed one ball in the hole and assembled the remaining five nearby. Then "Tom" said—but no, let me draw the curtain on the scene!

However, it is only fair to "Tom" to state that during his long golfing career he has holed many a drive in a single shot.

Wonderful Second Shot

Oftentimes a player makes a hole in the second shot under circumstances that give the feat as sensational a character as holing out in one. For example, at the Metropolitan Open Championship on the Englewood links in 1912 Gil Nichols, a well-known professional, holed a second shot with a cleek at a distance of between 180 and 200 yards.

The most remarkable putt I ever saw was one made by Walter J. Travis at Garden City in 1908 during the second round of the national amateur championship.

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He was playing against H. H. Wilder of the Vesper Country Club in a desperately contested match that went to the forty-first green before Travis won. Wilder had the veteran dormie, 4 up and 4 to play, but Travis won the thirty-third and thirty-fourth holes. Travis was playing for life because a single halved hole meant defeat. On the thirty-fifth (seventeenth hole) Travis's ball lay between two mounds on the putting green, each mound being about a foot high, and he had to make a twenty-five foot putt to win the hole. Either because he was stymied, or for some other reason, Travis could not play straight for the hole which was on the same level as his ball. He studied the shot a minute, then deliberately played up the side of one mound toward the hole twenty-five feet distant. The ball

Travis Was Playing for Life

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climbed the mound, ran along its rounded top for at least fifteen feet, then slantingly ran back to the level green again and rolled into the hole.

Away From the Hole

On another occasion, when Travis was stymied at this hole, I saw him play directly away from the hole up the side of one of the mounds. The ball ran part way up the slope, then rolled down again and went into the cup.

Now and then holing even the third shot is quite as remarkable as holing the first. Not long ago an Upper Montclair golfer was playing in England with a British professional and his son. When they reached a certain hole, distance about 400 yards, the professional remarked with natural pride:

"I got this hole in 3 once—only time it's ever been done, sir."

"Huh!" cried the American in jest, "I

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could do it in 3 myself if you would let me play without a coat."

In England it is bad form to play divested of this garment; in America there is no taboo of the sort, and most American golfers cannot play well when wearing a coat.

"I'll lay you thirty shillings to one you can't do it in 3," said the professional.

"And I'll do the same," said his son.

A Sixty-Shilling Blow

"The bet's on," replied the American, stripping off his coat. A long drive was supplemented by a strong brassie shot, and the American found his ball in front of a very high bunker, beyond which the green was hidden. Although the hole itself was invisible, he could see the flag marking it and he had one shot left. Taking his mashie he pitched the ball over the bunker, and when they reached

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the green and found his ball in the hole, the sixty shilling blow almost killed both father and son!

Munchausen on the Golf Links

In golf as in every other game of skill there are players who are a bit inclined to draw upon their imaginations in the matter of remarkable shots, but now and then even strictly veracious players are fooled by some mischievous person and believe all their lives that they have performed some extraordinary feat. Several years ago a passerby was standing near a certain hole on the links at Essex Falls, N. J., when he noticed two balls, one after another, land on the putting green in front of him. They had come from the tee which could not be seen from the putting green because of intervening trees and bushes. The moment the two balls struck the putting green an equal number of boys dashed out of the bushes,

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picked up the balls, placed them in the hole and immediately vanished. His curiosity aroused, the passerby waited for further developments. In a few moments a very fat and dignified looking old gentleman and an equally plump and dignified looking old lady, attired in golf costume, sauntered up to the green and made a long, vain search for the balls.

A Great Surprise

Finally the fat man casually inspected the hole, then frantically beckoned the fat lady to approach. She did so hurriedly and the pair, side by side, peered into the cup.

"Great Scott! We both holed out in *one!*" shouted the fat man.

"Great heavens! so we *did!*" screeched the fat lady, and plucking the two balls from the cup they started on the run to tell their friends the remarkable tale. No doubt they are telling it yet!

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CHAPTER XXI

THE ETIQUETTE OF GOLF

EVERY golfer should be thoroughly familiar with the rules governing play, and with the etiquette of the game. In the legal fraternity there is a well known adage to the effect that ignorance of the law is no excuse. The same adage applies to golf. In a medal play competition, for example, how unfair it is to other competitors, who have strictly observed the rules, when some uninformed or unscrupulous player fails to count all his strokes, or hole out every putt with the result that he comes home with the winning score. Quite possibly, too, he has soled his club in every bunker and sand trap. It is not only his duty to

Ignorance no Excuse

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know that such things are improper and cause him to incur penalties, but it is the duty of his partner as well to see that each penalty incurred is inflicted.

No Genius for Figures

A competitor in match play may concede a putt to his opponent if he choose, but one player cannot concede a putt to another in medal play or permit him to do anything else that is against the rules governing stroke competitions. Some golfers seem to have no genius for figures. They cannot count correctly and, unfortunately, their general tendency is to be one stroke shy rather than one stroke too many. The majority of the poor mathematicians are not dishonest. They have bad memories, or are a bit careless, and they soon outgrow the fault. Now and then, however, one hears of an occasional golf kleptomaniac whose passion for winning is so strong that, consciously or un-

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consciously, he will take anything he can get away with. His fate is a sad one, for he is soon a marked man in his club.

Should Know the Rules

First of all, the novice should know and observe the rules. Second, he should be familiar with the etiquette, not only for his own pleasure but for that of the other players on the links. Golf is a gentleman's game and a golfer should be courteous, polite and unselfish. Some phases of the etiquette are intensely important because they are demanded for the safety of other players. When a player selfishly drives before the pair ahead have played their second shots and are out of range, some one is apt to be injured. It is no joke to be struck by a hard-hit golf ball. Men have been killed by the ball. Other men have lost the sight of an eye.

A well played golf stroke is a delicate

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and difficult feat, and the rule of etiquette which states that no player should move or speak while his opponent is making it, is inspired by the fact that the slightest distraction is apt to spoil the shot. Incredible as it may seem to the reader who has never followed a very important golf match, I have seen two thousand spectators mass themselves several deep around the four sides of a putting green, and stand absolutely motionless and silent while one of the contestants made his putt. Following the stroke there would be a buzz of conversation, possibly a cheer or a clapping of hands, and then, as the second player received his club from his caddie and bent over to putt, the entire two thousand again would become as motionless as statues and as silent as a convention of the dumb. The crowd knew the etiquette and observed it.

Don't Speak; Don't Move

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Would Have Been Mobbed

Doubtless, had any member of it laughed, shouted or whistled he would have been mobbed. The etiquette, as given in the United States Golf Association's year book, is as follows:

1. No one should stand close to or directly behind the ball, move, or talk, when a player is making a stroke.

On the putting-green no one should stand beyond the hole in the line of a player's stroke.

2. The player who has the honor should be allowed to play before his opponent tees his ball.

3. No player should play from the tee until the party in front have played their second strokes and are out of range, nor play up to the putting-green till the party in front have holed out and moved away from it.

4. Players who have holed out should

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not try their putts over again when other players are following them.

5. Players looking for a lost ball should allow other matches coming up to pass them; they should signal to the players following them to pass, and having given such a signal, they should not continue their play until these players have passed and are out of reach. *When the Ball Is Lost*

6. Turf cut or displaced by a player should be at once replaced and pressed down with the foot.

7. A player should carefully fill up all holes made by himself in a bunker.

8. Players should see that their caddies do not injure the holes by standing close to them when the ground is soft.

9. A player who has incurred a penalty stroke should intimate the fact to his opponent as soon as possible.

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CHAPTER XXII

"FIRST AID" TO THE GOLFER "OFF HIS GAME"

WHAT a note of tragedy there is in those few words, "the golfer off his game." Possibly there may be a note or two of comedy as well, but if there is he doesn't hear it. He is the most miserable object on earth. A week ago everything was lovely and he was playing so well that he was shaking hands with himself after every stroke. As everybody knows, a "Birdie" is a hole captured in one stroke under par, and didn't he get a "Birdie" on that long seventh hole only last Saturday? Of course he did. "Billy" Smith saw him do it, and hasn't he buttonholed every member of the club since and told him all about

He Got a "Birdie"

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it? No getting away from it—nor from him, either!

No Respect for Bogey

A week ago he didn't have much respect for "Colonel Bogey," because the Colonel wasn't "classy" enough. It was an easy matter to halve him and not very difficult to beat him on quite a number of holes. A week ago "General Par" was the only mythical personage on the links who was entitled to respect, but the bottom has dropped out, the beautiful golf bubble has burst and it's a plain case of "Woe is me!" The golfer "off his game" cannot drive, approach or putt, he doesn't know what the matter is, and he has completely lost confidence in himself. In this chapter I shall endeavor to give a few suggestions designed to assist him in getting back "on his game" again. There is a reason for each misplayed stroke, and every golfer who cares anything about

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the game should make an effort to ascertain the reason as well as the remedy.

Slicing the Ball

A very common fault is slicing the ball, causing it to curve away off to the right of the line of play. This not only causes loss of distance, but is apt to carry the ball out of bounds or into trouble. Eight different faults that cause a sliced ball, with the remedies for them, may be outlined as follows:

1. Gripping with the right hand too loose or with the left hand too far under the shaft.

To correct this tighten the grip of the right hand and turn the left hand so that the left wrist is more nearly parallel with the shaft.

2. Starting the back swing out from instead of around the body, causing the club face to come across the ball, slicing it.

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To correct this, endeavor to swing around the body instead of out from it, and allow the face of the club to turn away from the ball in the back swing. If the player go to the opposite extreme and get a pulled ball as a result of this change, let the club swing a trifle further out from the body.

When the Ball Is Pulled

3. Pulling the arms in toward the body as the club strikes the ball.

To correct this follow through straight toward the hole.

4. Falling away from the ball at the moment of impact.

To correct this take a firm stance and have the weight of the body more on the toes than on the heels.

5. Standing too close to the ball, causing it to be struck with the heel of the club.

To correct this stand a little further

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away from the ball, with the toe of the club about opposite the ball in the address.

6. Checking the swing at the moment of impact.

Timing the Swing

To correct this follow through properly without the slightest hesitation.

7. Starting the hands in the down swing before the head of the club is set in motion, causing poor timing. (By timing I mean perfect rhythm. Don't hurry the swing. If the hands are in advance of the head of the club a slice will follow; if the club is in advance of the hands the result will be a pull.)

To correct this be sure that the hands and the face of the club are in the same position as in the address when the face of the club meets the ball.

8. Looking up too soon.

To correct this keep the eye on the ball.

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To Correct a Pull

The various causes of pulled balls, and the methods of correcting the faults, are these:

1. Gripping too tightly with the right hand, or having the right hand too far under the club.

To correct this loosen the right hand and keep turning it over in successive shots until the pull ceases.

2. Swinging the club back too close to the body.

To correct this take the club back a trifle more out from the body.

3. Standing too far in advance of the ball.

To correct this place the ball nearer the left foot.

4. Standing too far from the ball, causing it to be struck by the toe of the club.

To correct this stand closer to the ball.

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Topping, Sclaffing, Skying

Naturally, no golfer can see himself play, consequently it is difficult for him to discover his own faults. Hence the necessity of having a good professional or amateur instructor.

Topping the ball is caused by lifting the head too soon, or by pulling the arms up at the moment the club head strikes the ball.

To correct this keep the head still and follow through properly.

Sclaffing is caused by standing too close to the ball and by dropping the right shoulder as the club face reaches the ball.

To correct this move further away from the ball and endeavor to keep the right shoulder in the same plane throughout the swing.

If you are skying your shots you have the ball too far in advance of the center

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of your body, or you are dropping the right shoulder.

To correct this stand with the ball opposite the center of the body and keep the right shoulder in the same plane throughout the swing.

If you find that your putts are going to the right of the cup, you are either pulling the arms in, or taking your eye off the ball, or not following through.

If your putts are going to the left of the cup your swing, instead of being along the line of the putt, partly describes an arc as the club head approaches the ball.

To correct this swing straight back and follow through toward the hole.

Change Putter or Stance

When you are "off your game" in putting, change your putter or stance. An excellent way to regain confidence is to place the ball about one foot from the hole and

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To Regain Your Confidence

putt out two or three times from this distance. Then take the ball a little further away and go through the same performance. Continue to do this, each time going further away from the hole. Then take the ball back toward the hole and begin all over again, each time putting hard for the back of the cup, until you have regained your confidence. As I have already stated, good putting is half confidence, and by diligent study and painstaking practice you can acquire the necessary confidence and become a good putter, thereby learning the most important and also the most difficult part of golf.

THE END

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